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Hafa Adai!

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# Saipan Tribune

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# Budget eyes 1-time BGRT increase just for FY 2024

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Babauta

» Some senators believe one-time tax increase will be hot-button issue between Senate, House

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios' proposed budget for the government's operations in fiscal year 2024 includes a proposal to increase the Business Gross Revenue Tax beginning in the second quarter of fiscal year 2024 for an additional estimated revenue of $9.1 million. This early, some senators believe this one-time increase will result in a hot-button tussle between the Senate and the House of Representatives.

See BUDGET on Page 4

Torres

## Subpoena vs Torres' BOG account quashed

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Judge pro tem Arthur R. Barcinas, who is handling former governor Ralph DLG Torres' criminal case in Superior Court, granted yesterday afternoon Torres' motion to quash the subpoena that had sought to obtain his records from Bank of Guam, thus the bank need not hand over

See SUBPOENA on Page 4

## IRT realizes public benefit worth over $900,000 so far

CHRYSTAL MARINO

From left, CNMI Health mission commander Col. Hugh D. West; CNMI Bureau of Military Affairs special assistant Daniel Aquino, Brig. Jennifer Marrast Host, deputy commanding general, 807 Medical Command (Deployment Support); and IRT deputy director Col. George Koklanaris pose for a picture following a press conference yesterday at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

As the U.S. Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training nears the end of Operation CNMI Wellness on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, operation leaders and service members gathered with the CNMI's top officials yesterday at the American Memorial Park in Garapan for an overall briefing during their Distinguished Visitors Day.

During the presentation, Gov. Arnold I Palacios told the U.S. military that the community is grateful for both medical and veterinary services that are being provided. "There are gaps in veterinary care and

See IRT on Page 4

## Japanese male choir sings for war dead

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Twenty members of the renowned Roppongi Male Chorus ZIG-ZAG, made their way across Saipan memorial sites yesterday, performing songs in honor of those who lost their lives during World War II on the island.

Upon arrival that morning, the group immediately headed to the Japanese-era Donne Field Hospital on Mt. Tapochau for their first tribute performance. Their second and final

See JAPANESE on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Members of the Roppongi Male Chorus ZIG-ZAG pose for a picture following the choir's last Saipan performance yesterday afternoon at the Central Pacific Veterans Monument on the Last Command Post in Marpi.

## INSIDE

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Meena's in Chalan Kanoa is closing after more than 40 years of outfitting local residents.
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Death Valley put a sizzling point Sunday on a record summer that is baking the entire globe.
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LIFE & STYLE
The latest "Mission: Impossible " film has earned a franchise-best of $80 million over five days.
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# Local

## IRT mission working on 750 eyeglass pairs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The optometry services of the U.S. Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training Operation CNMI Wellness mission has already received about 750 eyeglass orders out of their 800 no-cost pair of eyeglasses that are planned for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

As of yesterday afternoon, they have already made over 400 pairs of eyeglasses and were crafting about 120 pairs a day since the beginning of the mission last Wednesday, July 12.

U.S. Navy Cpt. Brian Hatch, director of the Naval Ophthalmic Readiness Activity from the Navy Medical Readiness Logistics Command in Yorktown, Virginia, showed Saipan Tribune around for a tour of their lab at the Gualo Rai Youth Center yesterday afternoon and showed the inner workings of how two U.S. Army and two U.S. Navy certified opticians make the eyeglasses—from getting the prescription lenses, to mathematically aligning the lenses on a Lensometer, to carving out the lenses on a lens edger, to the eyeglass mounting process, and then inputting the information of the ready-made glasses onto a shared drive, which from there will be picked up by patients from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan, after the glasses are all packed up and delivered.

It takes about 25 minutes to make a pair of eyeglasses as a lot of accuracy and detail go into making sure that the glasses are set to the exact specification of the patient.

This operation, Hatch said, benefits both the community and the service members as the community avails of no-cost services, while the service members receive hands-on training in their field of work.

There are seven optometrists in this mission—with four on Saipan and three on Rota and Tinian—along with optometry technicians helping out. Hatch said that that's a huge amount of eyecare going out to the community.

He thanked the staff of the Gualo Rai Youth Center for helping them set up, saying the facility is adequate for their mobile optometric support unit.

"This has been an ideal environment for us to operate. … They have good WiFi support so we can use the shared Google spreadsheet and they've been very supportive—even the neighbors wave. They're very friendly and we love the island. You guys have been incredible hosts and we thank you," said Hatch.

He also lauded U.S. Air Force LDCR Virginia Gilmore, who is in charge of all optometrists and optometry techs. "She included us from the beginning as soon as she knew she was a site lead. …She included us in that mid-planning basically all the way into the final planning and helped us…figure things out and it was on point. So we really appreciate it."

In turn, Gilmore said that, as an eye doctor who's done many of these types of missions, it is critical that Hatch's group and representatives from his NORA group are on site. "Missions run so much better because eyeglasses are such a critical part of these missions to be able to work with a group as well-honed as this and as talented as this, and we can work together so well that the patients can get their glasses. It's remarkable. …This has been a fantastic group to work with and I really appreciated getting to know them. It's been a pleasure."

For those interested in availing of free medical services, head to the American Memorial Park from 8am to 6pm and get registered. The Commonwealth Office of Transport Authority will be providing shuttle services to and from the Commonwealth Health Center and AMP.

The medical mission is set to conclude on July 19 at 12pm on Saipan and July 18 at 6pm on Rota and Tinian.

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## Focusing on community vision

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

An Army optician performs the final check on eyeglasses fabricated at no cost to the community on Saipan during Innovative Readiness Training Operation Wellness CNMI on July 16.

A team of four service members from the Naval Ophthalmic Readiness Activity out of Yorktown, Va., is working at the Gualo Rai Children's Park Youth Center on Saipan making eyeglasses for the communities of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota during the Innovative Readiness Training Operation Wellness CNMI from July 12 to 19, 2023.

Two Army and two Navy opticians work together as a Mobile Optometric Support Unit, forward deployed in a field environment conducting optical fabrication. The MOSU comes with all equipment required to be a self-contained fabricating unit, making approximately 150 pairs of glasses per day.

Typically, IRT missions are supported by one to three optometrists and produce, on average, 700 pairs of glasses in an eight-day mission.

In just the first four days of this IRT mission, the team fabricated more than 450 pairs; however, due to the high number of eyecare providers at the IRT's three sites, optical orders exceeded 730 within the same amount of time.

If any materials are depleted or orders exceed the fabrication capacity, the team will forward the work to home station in Virginia to complete and ship glasses to community partners for distribution to the island communities.

Optometrists can also provide patients with eye health exams and a full optical prescription to purchase glasses on their own if desired.

Additionally, the most common request on the islands are eyeglasses for near vision, and low-cost 'readers' can typically be the ideal solution as they are readily available at most variety stores or optical shops. ***(PR)***

# Flores: Disclose reasons for recusing from Torres' case

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Rep. Marissa Renee Flores (Ind-Saipan) has asked that all CNMI Superior Court judges to disclose their specific reasons for recusing themselves from the pending criminal case against former governor Ralph DLG Torres.

Specifically, Flores said that CNMI law may allow judges and justices to recuse themselves without citing any reason but these recusals "incur substantial delay in significant cases and prevent the public from having cases heard by local elected officials."

All CNMI Superior Court judges recently recused themselves from hearing a lawsuit filed by former governor Ralph DLG Torres against the Department of Finance and the Office of the Attorney General that challenged the hiring of special prosecutor James Kingman.

Flores

In a letter to CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alejandro C. Castro dated yesterday, July 17, 2023, Flores acknowledged that, while the Commonwealth Code provides a specific process for announcing a recusal of a judge or justice, it does not consistently require the judge or justice to identify in detail the factual basis for the recusal. She said this creates a situation wherein there is no review of the decision to recuse and inconsistent disclosure of the reasons for recusal.

Flores, who chairs the House Committee on the Judiciary and Governmental Operations, said she is "concerned about this pattern of recusal that is not subject to review or disclosure." In line with this, she is asking all those who have recused themselves to disclose their specific reasons.

Her letter was also sent out to Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja.

*Saipan Tribune* tried to obtain comments from the CNMI Judiciary yesterday, but was told no one was willing to go on record.

*Saipan Tribune* archives show that Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja and associate judges Joseph N. Camacho, Teresa Kim-Tenorio, Kenneth Govendo, and Wesley Bogdan have all recused themselves from hearing Torres' suit.

With this, Torres' petition is left without a local judge to hear it. This means that, like Torres' ongoing criminal case, the CNMI Supreme Court will have to appoint a non-CNMI judge to hear the matter.

# Jury trial in license fraud case starts

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The prosecution and the defense counsel completed their opening statements yesterday as the jury trial of Bonifacio "Boni" Sagana on driver's license fraud charges gets underway in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The prosecutor, assistant U.S. Attorney Albert Flores Jr., told the jurors that they will be hearing testimonies from the prosecutors' witnesses throughout the trial: Homeland Security Investigations special agent David West, Bernadita Zata, Diosdado Garcia, and a woman named "Ms. Ayuyu."

Sagana is accused of allegedly conspiring with others to unlawfully produce an identification document—in this case, a CNMI driver's license.

Flores named the witnesses as

According to Flores, Zata paid Sagana $200 for a driver's license in February 2017 and that Garcia also allegedly paid Sagana $250 for a license in July 2017.

On both times, Flores said that Zata and Garcia did not give Sagana any legal immigration document such as an I-94 that is required for obtaining a driver's license as they were both undocumented, but still received their licenses.

Flores then said that Ayuyu was a friend to both Sagana and Zata and that Sagana told Ayuyu earlier this year not to say anything about the case after Sagana was charged so that "there are no more problems."

Flores also said that Sagana has lived on Saipan for the past 30 years, speaks English, and helps other Filipinos with their long-term residency applications and sometimes receive cash donations of $75.

The defense' counsel, Richard Miller, urged the jury to be skeptical of each witness called to the stand. He said the three elements in the case against Sagana are 1: conspiring to knowingly produce an identification document, 2: without lawful authority, and 3: that the production of that document was in or affected interstate commerce.

Miller said that Sagana is not charged with conspiring to produce a fake I-94. "He is not charged with conspiring to produce a fake federal document. The identification document and the charge that they say that he unlawfully produced or conspired to unlawfully produce is the CNMI driver's license. And that's important to remember, because the government must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that producing Ms. Zata's 2017 driver's license was in or affected interstate or foreign commerce."

Interstate commerce means commerce between one state or territory and another, and foreign commerce means commerce between the U.S. as a whole and some foreign government.

The government's witness, West, was the first called to the stand and was asked to describe in detail the day that the search warrant on Sagana's residence in Chalan Kanoa was executed on March 8, 2021.

Photo evidence was then produced and shown to West for confirmation and then to the jurors for examination. Some of the evidence were a photo of Sagana's car parked outside his residence in Chalan Kanoa, Sagana's typed up and handwritten-amended statement, Sagana's Miranda right's acknowledgement, and Sagana's and Zata's I-94 immigration documents that were found in the search.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the court yesterday morning, the trial was still in session.

The first day of the trial started last July 6 with jury selection. There are 14 jurors in the trial.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the U.S. District Court for the NMI issued an arrest warrant for Sagana following a grand jury indictment back on Jan. 31, 2022.

Sagana fled the CNMI before he could be arrested and was only taken into custody last May 16, 2022, in Wisconsin.

The charge against Sagana is punishable by up to a maximum sentence of 15 years imprisonment and a $250,000 fine.

**Job Vacancy Announcement**

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**Requirements:**
Must hold a Bachelor's degree in Accountancy with twenty-four (24) months of related working experience as an Accountant. Knowledge of CW1 processing and Knowledge of Accounting software.

Interested applicants can get applications at Queen's Restaurant Bldg. located at One Broadway Street, San Jose Village, Tinian, MP 96952 from Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or email resume to xuan-meihua@hotmail.com or call 6707832999 and look for Mr. Brian Hom for inquiry on job opening.

## IRT

*From page 1*

gaps in healthcare here in the Commonwealth, and we would love to make sure you come back next year to provide this opportunity," he said, adding that he is also grateful to the efforts of the CNMI Bureau of Military Affairs, which helped coordinate the outreach on the ground.

During the presentation, IRT operation leaders shared that their mission is to provide a real-world training for the military and build community partnerships.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Gov. Arnold I Palacios thanks the IRT Operation CNMI Wellness team and leaders during a presentation yesterday at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

"IRT was born out of a need to help our communities in America and our territories. We were always doing civil affairs throughout the world… and now we have the opportunity to serve our communities here," said deputy director for Innovative Readiness Training Col. George Koklanaris.

For their operation here, they estimate 12,600 training hours and a community benefit worth over $900,000 at fair market value in just over one week. As of the current status report, they've seen 364 patients on Tinian, 357 on Rota, and 1,482 on Saipan, along with over 300 pets.

With these no-cost services covering medical, dental, optometry, veterinary, pharmacy, and behavioral health for the community, it was dental health care services that had most patients and made up most of the community benefit cost at over $400,000.

Following the presentation, CBMA special assistant Daniel Aquino said they will be looking at the numbers, study them, and work with the military to make the necessary adjustments for the IRT's next visit, which is said to be in the works at the moment.

In a later comment, Koklanaris said, "…We enjoy coming out to CNMI as much as we do because we consider it a privilege to serve all of our communities, and the CNMI is an important community to the Pentagon, and it's an important community to IRT, so we look forward to coming out here every year if you want us and we'll be glad to provide all the types of medical services that you need…"

IRT Wellness CNMI mission commander Col. Hugh D. West said they will be sharing a list of community resources based on the recommendations that our providers are making…that they can use in the community to carry on that care. He also expressed hope to return next year, and that plans for that visit are in the works as they also seek to finish construction on Tinian's roads.

Community members who have availed these no-cost services are encouraged to fill out the feedback survey at bit.ly/3XJAW2E and comment or suggest things, treatments, and services they wish avail of in the next IRT tour in the Marianas.

## BUDGET

*From page 1*

Speaking before the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee's Fiscal Year 2024 budget hearing last Friday, Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita went over three highlights in their revenue forecast, including the proposal to increase the BGRT rates.

Under the governor's proposal, taxpayers whose earnings range between $100,000 and $250,000, there will be a .5% increase in BGRT, Norita said. Those that make between $500,000 and $750,000 will see a 2% increase, while those that make above $750,000 will see a 1% increase.

Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) noted that, under the proposal, there is no change to the current 3% BGRT being imposed on those making $250,000 to $500,000, to which Norita agreed.

Right now, based on the current BGRT schedule, the rate is 1.5% for business taxpayers that make between $5,000 and $50,000; for those earning $50,000 to $100,000 it's 2%; above $100,000 to $250,000 is 2.5%; above 250,000 to $500,000 is 3%; above $500,000 to $750,000 is 4%; and above $750,000 and over is 5%.

Norita explained that what they did for the analysis was take the filing data of tax year 2022 and the rate that they paid and just change that rate to the new rate proposed.

"So that's our baseline proposal to increase the BGRT rate and, because of that, we calculated approximately $9.1-million revenue projection increase from this proposal," she said.

Norita said the rates would apply to everybody specific to those brackets.

In order for the fiscal year 2024 projections to be realized, the new BGRT rates would essentially have to be approved as a standalone or as a provision in the budget, said Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota).

In response to Manglona's questions, Norita said they're proposing the increase just for the next fiscal year and not as a permanent rate. She said the proposed increase will just to allow the government to meet the level of operations that they're proposing for the year, considering that they just want to meet the basic services they have in fiscal year 2023. She said the BGRT increase, which will be applied only in fiscal year 2024, would give the Legislature the flexibility whether to retain or remove it in the succeeding fiscal year.

Norita said the Legislature can address in the budget bill if it wants the BGRT increase to be a standalone bill or a provision of the budget. "But the more enforcement tools we have, the better," she said.

Norita said they're making the assumption that major businesses will—out of their best interest—continue doing business and not go out of business for one year just to skip paying a .5% increase.

Manglona said that, since the House concurrent resolution is now before the Senate, if the Senate does not agree with the tax increases, they will have to essentially reduce the budget ceiling down by $9.1 million.

"So I guess that's going to be up for discussion as we deliberate on the House concurrent resolution," Manglona said.

If, for any reason, the Senate rejects the House's version and incorporates what Norita is suggesting to add the increase in taxes, and the Senate rejects that, then they would go into conference committee to hammer out any differences, said Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan).

In essence, Babauta said, it would not be a balanced budget because the expenses would be more than the revenues. "So how do you expect us to reconcile that? We have to cut expenses somewhere if we were to work on the budget together with the House. It will throw everything—the figures, the numbers—out of the window," the senator said.

Babauta believes the best approach would be a standalone and not incorporate it in the budget bill. "Because this could be a heavy contention between the House and the Senate, which could cause possibly a shutdown. I'm not saying we are. We don't know what the House version looks like," she said.

Babauta concedes, though, that it is premature to say that they will go into a conference committee or that the government would shut down. "But I don't know what to do now with, if we reject this, if the House incorporates it and we reject it, we're [going to] have to cut expenses as well," she added.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Etasuko Muna, left, from Pau Pau tours and Roppongi Male Chorus ZIG-ZAG group leader Hatsugai Takashi pose for a picture following the choir's last Saipan performance yesterday afternoon at the Central Pacific Veterans Monument on the Last Command Post in Marpi.

## SUBPOENA

*From page 1*

Torres' bank records to the court.

In his order yesterday, Barcinas stated that he granted the motion to quash the subpoena because the bank records are not relevant to the crimes charged against Torres.

Assistant attorney general James Kingman, who is prosecuting the case, had applied for the subpoena to "investigate an ongoing litigation by the Commonwealth under the auspices of an active charge involving financial impropriety."

Barcinas said, though, that if Kingman seeks to continue its investigation into Torres' finances unrelated to the charges currently set to be tried, he must use alternative means.

The case against Torres charges him with misconduct in public office and intends to prove that Torres was a public official who completed an illegal act in office. The alleged illegal act that Torres did was violating the restrictions on government paid travel outside of the CNMI.

Court documents stated that Kingman has already obtained numerous check stubs, deposit slips, notices of overdraw for travel authorizations, receipts and other documents concerning the case. Kingman said the documents did not match Torres' statements, which is why a subpoena for the bank records was requested.

However, Barcinas said that if the CNMI already has documents concerning Torres' transactions relating to the charges and his public statements, then the only bank records that would be related to the charges can be directly identified by the records already within the CNMI's possession.

Further, the subpoena requests all records from January 2016 to January 2023. The charges in this case only cite illegal acts alleged to be committed between April 2018 and December 2018.

"Financial records previous to the alleged illegal acts and financial records from several years after the alleged illegal acts are irrelevant to this criminal matter. Even if the time frame in the subpoena was narrowed down to a timeframe closer to the alleged illegal acts, the bank records requested would also, as the subpoena is written, reveal purchases and information completely irrelevant to the alleged illegal acts. Every pharmacy purchase, every gift for a family member or friend, every restaurant visited would be subject to governmental scrutiny, making the majority of the records requested irrelevant to the charges in this case. For similar reasons, the subpoena should also be considered as failing to have the required specificity, and it fails on these grounds alone," said Barcinas in his order.

Torres' case was initially filed on April 8, 2022, charging him with 12 counts of misconduct in public office, one count of theft, and one count of contempt.

On May 9 this year, the CNMI requested for a subpoena that will order Bank of Guam to produce financial records concerning all transactions related to Torres' bank account between January 2016 and January 2023.

## JAPANESE

*From page 1*

performance was held in the afternoon at the Jigokudani or "Hell Valley," and at the Central Pacific Veterans Monument at the Last Command Post in Marpi.

Shortly after the choir's final performance in Marpi, group leader Hatsugai Takashi told *Saipan Tribune* that this was the first time the group is visiting Saipan and Tinian. "It's a beautiful island. ...We cannot believe that there was a war here. ...It's really peaceful," he said.

Not only was this the group's first time in the Marianas, but this was also the first performance the group has done since the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, Takashi noted. He said that they've been wanting to come here for a long time now and now they had this opportunity.

When asked if they would be able to take part in some recreational activities on the islands, Takashi replied, "This time it's only performance… but we do want to come back individually to enjoy more."

Today the group will be performing at 1:30pm at Puntan Carolinas along Tinian's Banzai Cliff.

The Japan-based male choir is composed of laymen professionals who are also known in their fields like politicians, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, artists, and others. The group has already performed in the Philippines, Palau, and the Marshall Islands, and other countries around the world, including at the world-famous Carnegie Hall in New York City. They have performances every two years.

# Pua is confirmed as new DFEMS commissioner

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Senate confirmed yesterday the appointment of acting Fire assistant chief Juan Aguon Pua as the new Department of Fire and Medical Emergency Services commissioner.

Pua

The full Senate confirmed Pua's nomination, with all six senators present voting "yes" to a motion to adopt the Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee report that recommended Pua's confirmation.

Sens. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) were absent but excused from the session.

Before the voting, Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), who chairs the EAGI Committee, said that Pua appeared before the committee last July 17, where his credentials were evaluated and this allowed a closer examination of his certifications, professional experience, and views critical to leading DFEMS.

Babauta said that Pua has served DFEMS since 1989 and is a son of the CNMI. She said the committee received a multitude of letters expressing support from across the Marianas and the United States. She said the committee received no letters opposing Pua's confirmation.

Babauta said the committee shares the administration's confidence in Pua's professional experiences and recommends the adoption of the committee report to confirm him to serve as the next DFEMS commissioner.

**COURTESY CALL** CASEY HULIGANGA/CNMI OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, together with Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang (not in photo), executive assistant for Carolinian Affairs Felix Nogis, and resident executive of the Indigenous Affairs Office Ross Manglona met with the voyagers of the Alingano Maisu, a double-hulled sailing canoe that belongs to grandmaster navigator Sesario Sewralur, third from left. The Aligano Maisu left its home port of Palau on April 30, 2023, and, together with its crew, arrived on Saipan on July 2, 2023. Also in photo are crew members Kazuyo Hayashi and Hunter H. Fine.

# Joeten foundation awards $16K scholarships to 8 student

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joeten Daidai Foundation officials pose with scholarship recipients last June 12, 2023, in the executive conference room of Joeten Susupe at Joeten Shopping Center.

The Joeten Daidai Foundation awarded a total of $16,000 in scholarships to eight deserving recipients last June 12, 2023, in the executive conference room of Joeten Susupe located at Joeten Shopping Center.

Each recipient was awarded $2,000 to assist them on their initial journey to college.

The eight awardees are Anthony Jacob C. Deleon Guerrero of Marianas High School, Matthew G. Ernest of Marianas High School, Mylan E. Goodwin of Marianas High School, Leunyce B. Regalado of Mount Carmel School, Jesus T. Sablan of Saipan International School, YuriHana DLG. Sasamoto of Mount Carmel School, Leilani Isa M. Taisacan of Marianas High School, and Ryan Michael Nuera of Tinian Junior Senior High School.

"This year was perhaps the most competitive in all the years I've been involved," said Foundation director Patty T. Palacios. "There were so many impressive applicants from all backgrounds. What our board seeks in an applicant is an overall, well-rounded student and we certainly received that today."

Each student was tasked to write an essay based on a quote from Aristotle, "Educating the head without educating the heart is no education at all." In addition to the essay, all qualifying candidates listed their accolades, extracurricular activities, and provided other requirements to complete the application process.

One scholarship recipient unable to be present at the check presentation, Ryan Michael Nuera, expressed his gratitude, "I would like to thank the foundation for this great opportunity and for this scholarship. This scholarship is a great help and will take me a step closer to my future goals in financing any necessities and things I will need for my college education. Again, I would like to thank the foundation for this scholarship, especially giving opportunities to the students from the Northern Marianas Islands where we are limited, sometimes hindering us on the playing field compared to students from the [U.S.] mainland. However, with opportunities like the Joeten Daidai Foundation, the gap gets much closer. Thank you again for this opportunity I greatly appreciate it and thank all of you for choosing me as a recipient."

The philanthropic arm of Joeten enterprises, the Joeten Daidai Foundation was established in 1994 from a vision of the late Jose "Joeten" C. Tenorio and his wife, Soledad "Daidai" Tenorio, as a means of giving back to the local community. The foundation has been greatly supported by the generosity of Joeten affiliates such as Saipan Shipping Co., Saipan Stevedore Co., Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. among many lifelong business partners of Joeten. ***(PR)***

**Job Vacancy Announcement**

**Technical Operations Manager (Saipan, MP)**

**Job Duties**
Oversee and supervise overall daily technical operations of the company; Develop and implement strategic plans for technical operation based on the company's customer base; Assess and analyze budgets and on-going technical projects to find ways to minimize expenses and optimize profits; Oversee and direct technical and mechanical issues from conception to completion; Oversee all onsite and offsite mechanical matters to monitor compliance with safety regulations; Set strategic plan for productivity and sales targets and ensure the company meets such targets

**Requirements**
Bachelor's Degree; Major(s) and/or field(s) of study in Mechanical Engineering.

Please send a resume and transcript to
**BE TO CORPORATION, Attn: Da Young CHUNG at P.O. Box 7670 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950.**

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# Plans in the works for 1st all-solar energized public facility in NMI

The 17th Saipan Council Leadership has partnered with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang to transform the Chalan Kanoa Leadership Kiosku courtyard estate into the first public facility to become fully energized with non-fossilized power.

The municipal council also praised the two CNMI leaders as stewards of the environment, citing their support of the council's effort to make the Chalan Kanoa Leadership Kiosku courtyard estate be made into a model solarized public facility that could serve as a prototype in insular communities.

They said in a statement that they embrace the goals of Department of the Interior assistant secretary Carmen Cantor to enable territories to achieve sustainable energy strategies that contribute to mitigating the adverse effects of climate change; reduce fossilized fuel dependence; and curb the expenditures of remote island territories on imported fossil fuels.

By contributing to improvements in the alternative application of energy infrastructure and energy policy through energizing insular communities and territories energy program promoted by OIA in the remote insular territories in the Pacific, the council also promotes an overarching policy goal that is linked to the CNMI's strategic energy plan, energy action plan, or integrated resource plan that would result in projected energy cost savings to end-users by the Saipan municipality's public facilities.

The municipal council leadership looks forward to taking the lead in fully implementing a small-scale grid-tie rooftop solarized non-fossil fuel energy alternative at the Chalan Kanoa Kiosku Leadership Courtyard early next year, said council chairwoman Marian Tudela.

The project would include installing solar photovoltaic and battery energy storage system that features the PV installation of solar panel system at the Chalan Kanoa Leadership Kiosku, which is located next to the U.S. Postal Service in Chalan Kanoa.

The components of the Kiosku grid-tie solar energy system project includes design and engineering and construction of a 4.80KW (DC) solar energy system calibrated to reach an estimated 100% peak offset. When complete, the grid-tie system is set to change course of the current energy consumption at the Kiosku from fossil-driven power grid to one that harvests the natural energy of the tropical sun 365 days a year.

Uniquely designed, the solar energy-driven power aims to provide a life estimated at more than 20 years, based on a design using a tier-one U.S.-made solar energy equipment and balance of system material, with the best industry warranties intended to stand the test of time and typhoon conditions, such as the recent Super Typhoon Yutu.

The solar system as envisioned comprises 12 x 400 watt solar energy modules, or a total output of an estimated 8,043kWh in Year 1. That's power consumption that will not have to be purchased, which permanently reduces the Kiosku's present fossil-dependent power use.

The council leadership shares the concern recently raised by deputy assistant secretary Keone Nakoa that "(e)nergy costs in the territories are among the highest in the nation," and praises the leadership of Cantor for spearheading a mandated priority set by the Biden-Harris administration "to help drive down the costs and promote cleaner energy options" that embraces that includes the far-flung islands of the Marianas archipelago. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the 17th Saipan Municipal Council pose with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios. From left, council vice chair Antonia Tudela, Palacios, council chair Marian Tudela, and council secretary Carmen Pangelinan.

# Recognizing the crucial role of probation and parole professionals

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

As an annual tradition and in sync with the United States, CNMI Gov. Arnold Palacios and Lt. Gov. David Apatang signed a proclamation signing last Friday at the Kagman Community Center that designates the week of July 16-22, 2023, as Pre-trial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week to recognize the hard work and efforts of CNMI probation and parole professionals.

CHRYSTAL MARINO

CNMI probation and parole professionals pose with Gov. Arnold Palacios and Lt. Gov. David Apatang after the two officials designated July 16-22, 2023 as Pre-trial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week last Friday at the Kagman Community Center.

Associate Justice Perry B Inos, and the CNMI justices and presiding and associate judges, as well as CNMI probation and parole professionals, Department of Youth Services members, and members of the community joined Palacios and Apatang for the signing and to recognize the labor of these needed civil servants.

Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division chief Chester Hinds commended these individuals, saying that, with the shortage of parole professionals here in the CNMI, there needs to be not only more of these individuals also more resources given them so they can do their job.

"For this community, there needs to be more resources invested in actually helping people re-enter society so they don't need to come back and see me in the courtroom anymore," he said.

During his inspirational remarks, one of those who has managed to turn his life around with the help of parole officers, Cody Leon, shared how he was truly grateful for these parole and probation officers, and DYS for all their services to the community, and in his life personally. Leon shared how he had changed from a life of addiction and crime and credited who he is today to these professionals who worked with him.

After the signing, Palacios and Apatang encouraged the community to honor these hardworking individuals and recognize their achievements and the crucial role they play in the community.

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

**AMENDED**
**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 04-2023**

**Opening date: July 03, 2023** **Closing date: July 21, 2023**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Location:** | **SAIPAN** | **SALARY** |
| **Position(s):** | (1) Airport Manager | UNGRADED |
| | (1) ARFF Mechanic II | PL 6/1 to 6/12 ($9.27/hr to $15.85/hr) |
| | (1) Grants Specialist | PL 15/1 to 15/12 ($14.38/hr to $24.60/hr) |
| | (1) Master Electrician | PL 19/1 to 19/12 ($17.48/hr to $29.90/hr) |
| | (1) Procurement Clerk | PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr) |
| **Location:** | **TINIAN** | **SALARY** |
| **Position(s):** | (2) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee | PL 5/1 to 5/12 ($8.83/hr) |
| **Location:** | **ROTA** | **SALARY** |
| **Position(s):** | (1) Custodial/Maintenance-I | PL 2/1 to 2/12 ($7.63/hr to $13.04/hr) |

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than ***5:00 P.M. on Friday, July 21, 2023.***

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
**HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD**
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Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp • Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 8 a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

**AGENDA**

**I.** Meeting Call to Order
**II.** Determination of Quorum
**III.** Review and Adoption of Agenda
**IV.** Review and Adoption of Minutes (05/18/2023)
**V.** Public Comments
**VI.** Chairperson's Report
- CNMI Operation Wellness Mission 2023

**VII.** Director's Report
- Notice and Certification for Adoption on Proposed Amendments to the Regulations for:
  1. Psychology
  2. Dentists
  3. Telehealth and Telemedicine
- Update with Proposed Regulations for Speech Pathology and Audiology
- Updates with the Law Revision Commission Regarding HCPLB Adopted Proposed Regulations
- Practice Monitoring Report on Case #20-0001

**VIII.** Investigator's Report
**IX.** Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
B. Legislature
**X.** Old Business
**XI.** New Business
**XII.** Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Application
B. Renewal Application
**XIII.** Miscellaneous Business
**XIV.** Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
**XV.** Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Adjournment of Meeting

Name: Mennie M. Delos Santos
Address: P.O. Box 7665 SVRB
Phone: (670) 288-1015/
(670) 989-2985

Pro Se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In Re the Matter of the Petition To Correct: Mennie M. Delos Santos Petitioner(s) ] FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 23-0214 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 31, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 2nd day of June, 2023.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

# FEMA lauds contractors' smooth, timely work

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Federal Emergency Management Agency Long Term Recovery Office director Wayne "Randy" Clayton presents a certificate of appreciation to RNV Construction owner/general manager Ruel Villacrusis during a ribbon-cutting ceremony commemorating the end of the program at the final turnover of the new home in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Thursday.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Wayne "Randy" Clayton, the director for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Long Term Recovery Office, said Thursday last week that they are impressed with their contractors under their Permanent Housing Construction Program that has benefitted over 200 households on Saipan and Tinian whose homes were destroyed during Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

Clayton said they are "absolutely happy" with RNV Construction, which was the contractor of the 179th—and last—newly constructed home, and several other contractors of the program.

"They [RNV] are perfect in the design and engineering now. Perfect in the sense that they had all the experience of the other homes. And you see, the construction is concrete and steel," said Clayton in an interview shortly after the ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the end of FEMA's Permanent Housing Construction program in the CNMI at the final turnover of the new home to homeowner Joaquina Agulto in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

At the ceremony, FEMA awarded a certificate of appreciation "for a job well done" to Ruel Villacrusis, who is the owner/general manager of RNV Construction.

RNV was one of FEMA's contractors and the full contractor for Agulto's home.

FEMA also handed certificates of appreciation to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Public Assistance Office Governor's authorized representatives Patrick C. Guerrero, Management and Budget special assistant Virginia Villagomez, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality.

Clayton said it was not just the construction phase that took a long time but establishing the program in 2018 and getting homeowners qualified for the program. He said it was establishing the program and getting applicants qualified that took a long time to complete.

Clayton said the challenge there as Robert Pesapane, who is FEMA Region 9 acting director for Public Assistance Division, noted was that over 150 homeowners applied for what they call expanded disaster legal services. FEMA had to hire attorneys to help applicants establish homeownership, and that sometimes took six months, Clayton said.

"Construction really is one of the best things with minimal delays—occasional weather delay, occasional changes in the design, or equipment or materials," he said. But overall the construction was very smooth and timely, he added.

Under the PHC Program, which is a FEMA Program that builds a home completely for free, 165 new homes were built on Saipan and 14 others were completed on Tinian. In total, 101 households (93 on Saipan and eight on Tinian) also received direct repairs under the program.

FEMA approved the PHC Program on Nov. 16, 2018, to support the high demand for housing solutions at that time following Super Typhoon's widespread devastation on Saipan and Tinian in October 2018.

# $7K federal financial aid available to NMC students

College students who are looking to access federal financial aid for the Northern Marianas College's upcoming fall and spring semesters are encouraged to file a 2023-2024 Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA.

The deadline to apply for the 2023-2024 FAFSA is Aug. 4, 2023, with NMC's fall 2023 semester starting on Aug. 21, 2023.

Qualified students can receive up to $7,395 in federal financial aid for the academic year. The FAFSA program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education, and is the largest financial aid provider in the U.S.

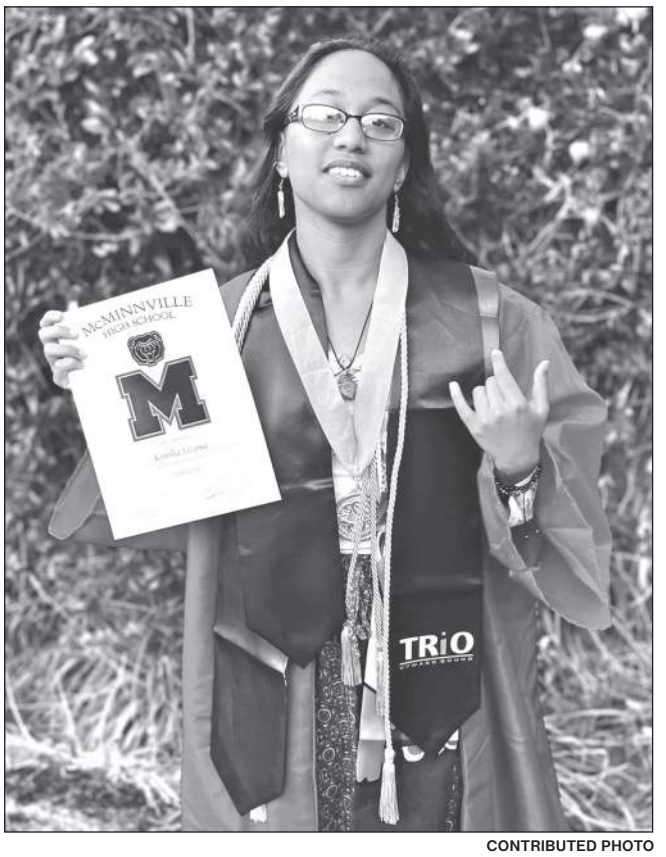
The FAFSA is available online at studentaid.gov. Students who have never applied for financial aid before must first create a Federal Student Aid ID. NMC's federal school code is 015746.

To verify eligibility for Pell grants, applicants can contact the NMC Financial Aid Office through email at fao@marianas.edu or call (670)237-6790. Applicants can also stop by the Financial Aid Office from 9am to 3pm, Monday to Thursday. The office is closed on Fridays, as well as weekends and holidays.

For more information about the Federal Financial Aid, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at fao@marianas.edu or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

# Kinisha Lizama graduates with salutatory honors

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
Correspondent



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kinisha Faythe Kileleman Lizama

Kinisha Faythe Kileleman Lizama brought smiles and pride to members of her family and island as she turned another chapter in her life with flying colors.

Out of 476 students in her graduating class, this 18-year-old daughter of Saipan graduated with salutatorian honors from McMinnville High School in Oregon last June 9, 2023.

Lizama said that she was "excited, but a little anxious too" on her graduation day. "I have big plans. …I'm going to college starting September this year, so knowing that I have something coming is exciting but also scary."

As the only Pacific Islander in her graduating class, Lizama shared that one of the challenges she faced in high school was overcoming negative stereotypes, and at times even a hint of racial discrimination.

Although born on Saipan, Lizama was only a toddler when her family relocated to the United States, so she didn't have much memories of the island and, after being away for 15 years, Lizama finally returned to Saipan this year for a summer vacation.

She shared with *Saipan Tribune* that she was still contemplating what to major in college when she returned to Saipan, but it was during her time here when she figured it out. "I really didn't know until I came here back to Saipan. I was like, 'What am I going to do?' I didn't even know what I'm going to do, but coming back here made me want to step into political science."

It was after hearing a family member share how sad she was that Saipan was not the same that made her sad too, but also motivated to help somehow. "Maybe I'll come back and help and make it a little bit better."

Aside from being her class' salutatorian, she already has college credit completion, career pathway completion, and an honors diploma, and has been accepted to the University of California in Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and Portland State. She has decided to go to the University of Oregon, where she will be majoring in political science.

She shared that she wants to return to the CNMI to work after completing her studies.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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

## NOTICE OF DCRM PUBLIC HEARING

### TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC.
### CONSTRUCTION OF TWO ADDITIONAL DORMITORIES & ONE RECREATIONAL BUILDING PROJECT

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the following project:

CRM Major Siting Application No. TMS-2022-035-A1 – The Triple J Saipan, Inc. is proposing to construct two additional dormitory buildings and one recreational building on Lot Nos. 023 t 21 and 023 T 22 in Marpo Heights, Tinian.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on **Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 5:00PM, at the San Jose Elementary School Cafeteria in San Jose, Tinian.**

Virtual public participation is available via video conferencing through Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315). Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend virtually or in-person, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp. The project file is open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Triple J Tinian Dormitory and Recreational Buildings Project.

/s/ Richard V. Salas
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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## EDITORIAL

# Ignoring the Bill of Rights when it's convenient

A federal judge last week held that the federal government tried to skirt the First Amendment when it pressured social media companies to suppress "misinformation" during the pandemic. The judge's conclusions will be litigated further, but they highlight the dangers inherent when private parties are used as government proxies to limit public debate.

But free speech isn't the only vital liberty at risk under such a scheme. Government agents have also eroded the Fourth Amendment by using the private sector to avoid constitutional protections against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Last month, Rep. Warren Davidson, an Ohio Republican, and Rep. Sara Jacobs, a Democrat from California, added an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would require the government to obtain a warrant before purchasing data on Americans from private information brokers.

The amendment comes after revelations that "federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies have repeatedly" purchased private information on cellphone users "without a warrant, from third-party commercial data brokers," according to the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law.

In 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court strengthened the Bill of Rights by ruling in Carpenter v. United States that government agents need a warrant to compel communications companies to turn over detailed location information about customers. Since then, however, government officials "have made an end run around this warrant requirement by purchasing detailed and intimate information about Americans from commercial data brokers," writes Noah Chauvin of the Brennan Center.

One might ask why Americans willingly provide so much of their intimate personal information to third parties in the name of convenience. But that's a discussion for another day.

The New York Times reported in 2021 that lawyers with the Defense Intelligence Agency don't construe the Carpenter decision as mandating a warrant for the purchase of data. But if the government may simply bypass restrictions in the Bill of Rights by using third party entities to do its dirty work, those freedoms are meaningless.

The amendment bans "federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies from purchasing Americans' location information, web browsing history, internet search history or any other information protected by the Fourth Amendment," Mr. Chauvin writes, "and requires these agencies to get a court order before obtaining this data."

This is a reasonable approach that protects the privacy of Americans to some degree while allowing the authorities to access data under judicial supervision. Surely both Democrats and Republicans can agree that the Bill of Rights is worth protecting.

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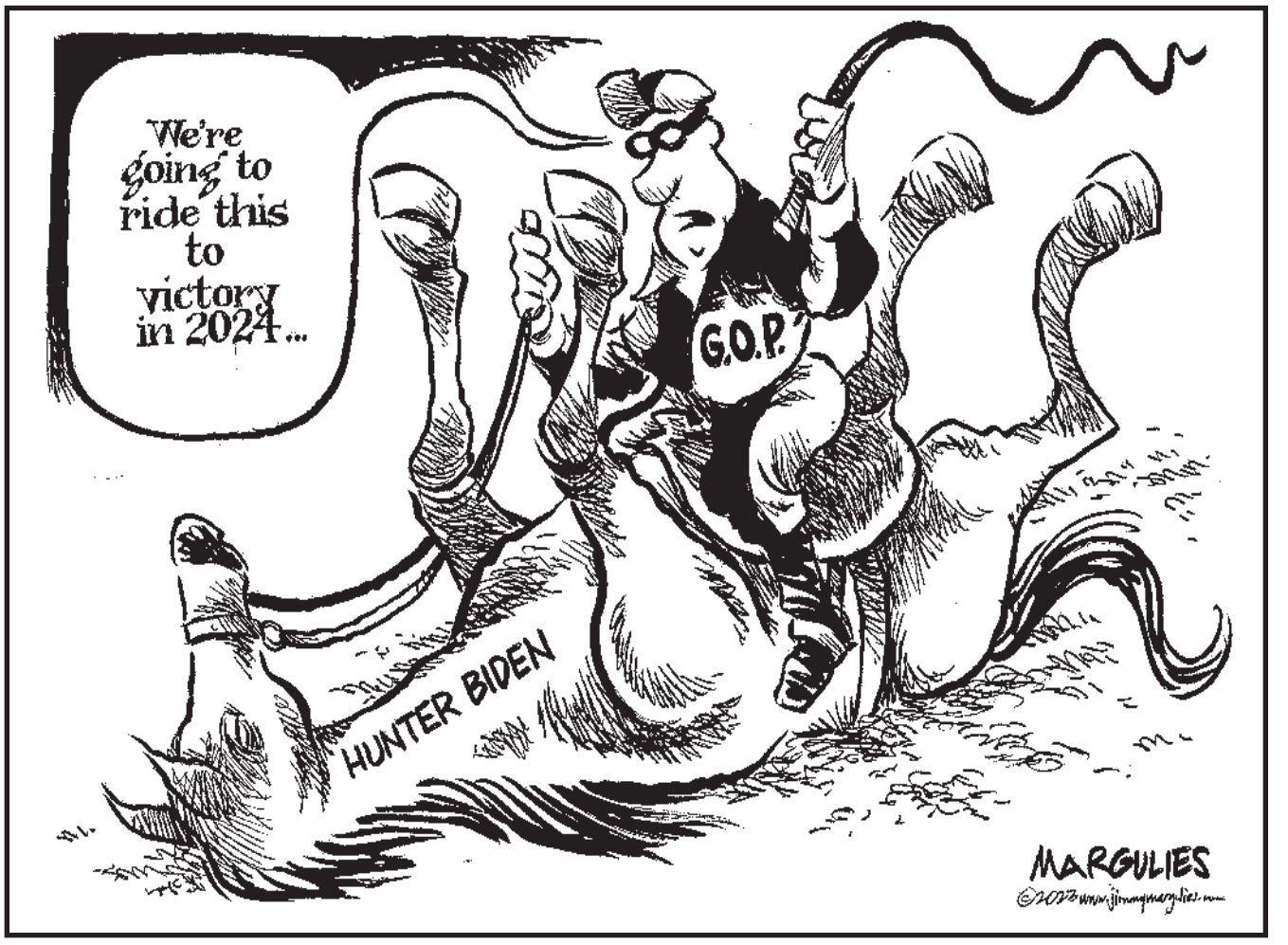



# Harassing good Samaritans is on brand for GOP

**By FRANCIS WILKINSON**
Bloomberg Opinion

The Republican war on migrants and asylum seekers has been one of the more successful GOP campaigns of recent years if you measure success by volume of vitriol.

GOP politicians travel repeatedly to the border to provide fresh content for Fox News and to reinforce the "invasion" message whenever hysteria wanes. It seems to work well. In an NPR/Ipsos poll last summer, a slight majority of Americans agreed that it's either "completely" or "somewhat" true that an "invasion" is under way at the U.S.-Mexico border. And, of course, Republicans speak so frequently of an "open border" that millions of Americans believe such a thing exists.

According to a Bloomberg Government report last week, congressional Republicans are now expanding their targets beyond migrants (and Democrats) to include the humanitarian groups that work along the border. Some of the groups, including religious charities, receive federal funds to help cover the cost of providing food and shelter for people, including children, who have neither. Often, the groups receive migrants directly from federal officials after they have been processed.

Republican Representative Tom Tiffany of Wisconsin said that he wants Catholic Charities USA and other groups to testify before Congress about "what they're doing down on the border to facilitate this illegal immigration."

This isn't Tiffany's first demagogue rodeo. He was one of four GOP House members who signed a Dec. 14, 2022, letter to Catholic Charities accusing the group (is it still necessary to add the phrase "without evidence" when discussing allegations by House Republicans?) of misusing public funds and possibly committing federal crimes. The letter instructed Catholic Charities to preserve documents and communications in preparation for an investigation.

Curiously, on the same day that Tiffany and his cohorts were seeking to intimidate Catholic Charities, Texas Governor Greg Abbott sent a letter to Texas Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton, similarly demanding an investigation of Good Samaritan groups. "There have been recent reports that non-governmental organizations may have assisted with illegal border crossings near El Paso," Abbott wrote to Paxton, whose impeachment trial for corruption is scheduled for September. "We further understand NGOs may be engaged in unlawfully orchestrating other border crossings through activities on both sides of the border, including in sectors other than El Paso."

The Texas Tribune tried to locate Abbott's mysteriously unspecified "reports" of NGOs engaging in human trafficking. The Tribune found one, sort of. It was published by a news organization that recently paid $787.5 million in a legal settlement stemming from its habit of deliberately disseminating lies. But even the Fox News report cited by the Tribune made no claim that NGOs were engaging in illegal activity. It said only that police on the Mexican side of the border had released migrants to various NGOs in Mexico.

Immigration is a vexing issue for people of good will. It's wellnigh impossible to make progress with so many people of bad faith. Yet whatever harms Abbott and Tiffany and their co-partisans visit on the least of their brothers is apparently not enough to meet the demands of the GOP base, which pines for more pain. This is the ethos of the contemporary GOP, memorably identified by the Trump supporter who complained in 2019 that Trump was "not hurting the people he needs to be hurting."

"Investigations," whether into Hunter Biden's misadventures in drug addiction or the deep state conspiracy to make Trump look like a lifelong crook, occupy an enormous share of the House Republican agenda. They are a logical GOP response to immigration, as well—especially after Title 42, the Covid-era border restriction, recently ended without the chaos that Republicans had hoped for. Republicans have few ideas or solutions for complex issues (unless you consider a wall to be either an idea or a solution). By contrast, you can investigate all day, every day, as House Republicans Jim Jordan and James Comer do, with a threadbare conscience as your only constraint.

Unlike House Republicans, Catholic Charities and other groups have been working on immigration for years, dealing in raw complexities rather than Fox News soundbites. "People who think that a warm bowl of soup is why these families flee to the U.S. have really no concept of the circumstances they're fleeing," the head of a refugee services organization told Bloomberg Government reporter Ellen M. Gilmer. No doubt these groups are occasionally fooled by grifters. But surely not as often as Republican voters are.

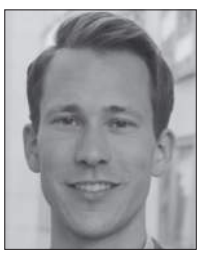
Harassing Good Samaritans is certainly consistent with GOP politics. But it might ultimately prove too degrading even for the party of Jordan and Comer. Another round of clueless legislators asking dim questions of knowledgeable witnesses is unlikely to produce the partisan high that keeps the House GOP fired up and ready to go. Perhaps it's time for another photo op of Republican politicians drifting haplessly on the Rio Grande, staring strongly, very strongly, at the foreign side while a Fox News camera captures the pathos in it all its tawdry glory.

**EDITORIAL POLICY** Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Angry about the Supreme Court? Blame Congress

**By FRANCESCA PROCACCINI and NIKOLAS GUGGENBERGER**
Los Angeles Times

*Francesca Procaccini is an assistant professor of law at Vanderbilt Law School. Nikolas Guggenberger is an assistant professor of law at the University of Houston Law Center*



The Supreme Court is seizing more and more policymaking power, prompting a barrage of criticism for the court's imperial tendencies. The current ultraconservative super-majority is voraciously advancing a deregulatory and anti-democratic policy agenda, including by rolling back environmental protections, degrading bodily autonomy, invalidating common sense gun control, undermining labor rights, nullifying student loan forgiveness, gutting public health measures, eroding the administrative state, insulating public corruption and dismantling laws and policies aimed at promoting a multi-racial, pluralistic democracy. No doubt, the critics are right: The court is overreaching.

Yet prevailing criticisms miss half the problem. The court's overreach is a direct result of Congress' underreach. The Constitution relies on a system of checks and balances to preclude tyranny and ward off imperial overreach. As its framers recognized, power abhors a vacuum. The American model of government is not one of voluntary self-restraint but of countervailing power. It requires strong institutions vying against one another to prevent the concentration and abuse of power. It does not do well when a branch is content—even eager—to cede power and retreat from its constitutional role.

For decades, however, Congress has done just this. It has under-reached, under-performed and under-protected its legislative prerogative. This willing retreat has enabled an anti-democratic juristocracy. How?

Congress has constrained its own legislative capacity while simultaneously neglecting its oversight role. The resulting power vacuum invited Supreme Court overreach, making the court's imperial problem largely a problem of Congress' secession.

First, Congress has abdicated its constitutional role of legislating by pitifully tying its own hands in parliamentary red tape. It continues to maintain the filibuster, requiring 60 votes for ordinary legislation to pass the Senate. This archaic rule works as an instrument of obstruction, allowing a single senator to grind legislation to a halt and effectively transforming the Senate into a "dadaist nightmare," as a column in the New York Times called it.

The Senate also continues the farcical blue slip tradition, which grants individual senators veto power over federal judicial nominations in their states and thus impedes the majority party from filling judicial vacancies. Both houses further truncate members' legislative and political power by tightly controlling when and by whom a vote is ever brought to the floor. Together, these procedural hurdles ensure gridlock, obscure accountability and neuter our legislature.

Second, Congress consistently neglects its duty to check the Supreme Court. It could but never has imposed any significant ethics framework on the court, even in the wake of a slew of improprieties involving multiple current justices. It meekly tolerates judicial snubs to its oversight powers, refusing to subpoena justices or private individuals involved in possible judicial corruption. Congress neglects to use its formidable budgetary powers over the Supreme Court, which allow it to control significant functions such as paying court staff, providing the justices' security and keeping the lights on.

Strikingly, Congress has failed to even consider its far-reaching powers to restructure the court, such as by changing its size, imposing limits on how long the justices serve or redefining the court's jurisdiction.

As for its imagined role as a governing partner in dialogue with the judiciary, Congress has let the court dominate with a monologue. The justices have struck down constitutional precedents, such as the right to abortion, that the legislature has failed to codify. And Congress has failed to fulfill judicially imposed requirements that would make legislation pass constitutional muster—for example, it seemingly will not make a factual record that race discrimination continues to infect voting practices in order to reenact an important provision of the Voting Rights Act gutted by the court in 2013. Congress has also steadfastly shrunk from challenging the court's overt incursions into its domain, for example by letting stand court decisions that erode the legislature's power to create new rights for the public, including civil, environmental and privacy rights.

Congress' abdication is not without reason; it reflects today's perverse political incentives. A combination of political gerrymandering, voter suppression, extreme partisanship and unfettered campaign spending has made Congress all too happy to minimize its lawmaking function. It does not adequately use its legislative, override, confirmation and investigatory powers because a majority of its members no longer have the political incentive to do so.

Only Congress can claw back policymaking power from the Supreme Court. Doing so will not be easy, especially when both parties benefit from the anti-democratic power transfer to the judiciary. But there are immediate steps we can take.

It's past time for Congress to abolish procedural barriers to legislating, including the filibuster, and support bold court reform strategies—which also need the backing of the president and public. Voters should support anti-gerrymandering initiatives at the state level and demand that congressional candidates in 2024 run on a platform of reining in the court and reforming Congress—two closely connected issues that garner immense popular support.

Congress' appeasement and retreat are responsible for the belligerent court we have today. Instead of simply decrying the court's overreach, we need to seriously address Congress' underreach.

# If Joe Rogan asks you to debate, be suspicious

**By TYLER COWEN**
Bloomberg Opinion

*Tyler Cowen is a* Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog* Marginal Revolution. *He is coauthor of* Talent: How to Identify Energizers, Creatives, and Winners Around the World.

As an economist who is skeptical of MMT, also known as Modern Monetary Theory, I am often urged to take part in a public debate with its advocates. I routinely decline, in part because I cannot answer "yes" to this question: Will this debate bring us closer to the truth?

It is something everyone should ask themselves before engaging in open discourse of any kind, on any subject.

The most common (and correct) criticism of MMT, presented by Paul Krugman and Larry Summers, is simply that its advocates have never presented a coherent model showing how their arguments fit together. But repeating that basic point is not so effective in a public debate, especially if MMT advocates are making all kinds of specific claims about inflation, interest rates and deficits. A lot of macroeconomics is counterintuitive anyway, so mere verbal sallies do not settle whether a particular set of claims is valid.

Rather than staging a debate, it is better to ask MMT advocates to outline their claims more formally—and then to push those claims through peer review. Then we can see what the evidence indicates.

Crypto is another area where public debates can be misleading. It is easy to find a long list of frauds and fraudsters associated with crypto, and to present their offenses to a receptive crowd. The skeptic can then challenge whether crypto has any legitimate uses at all. The best rejoinder—many innovations end up being useful in ways that are not immediately evident—is not exactly guaranteed to wow the audience, despite its validity.

Existential risk from super-smart artificial general intelligence (AGI) is another topic on which public debate is unlikely to land upon the truth. The most extreme worriers can present a long list of concerns, and then ask their disputants to prove that the risk from AGI is zero or non-zero. In any case, a captive public audience is likely to go away worried. Vivid disaster scenarios are often easier to communicate and more memorable than an explanation of how, through decentralized systems and checks and balances, things might work out fine.

A better approach is to ask AGI worriers to act like climate scientists. That is, they should formally model their arguments, present those models for peer review, and then test those models against incoming data. Just how robust are predictions of doom in a world where most individuals and institutions will invest their resources in cooperative AI?

Perhaps the AGI worriers will show they have a point. But in the meantime, slinging arguments back and forth will make their doom scenarios look more plausible than they probably are.

Recently, Joe Rogan offered to donate $100,000 to a charity of vaccine scientist Peter Hotez's choice if he appeared on his podcast to debate presidential candidate and longstanding vaccine skeptic Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Most scientists consider the major questions settled—and not in Kennedy's favor.

Of course people should always be open to revising their views. But a public debate is not a sufficiently structured setting for adjudicating right from wrong on these issues. The claims of vaccine skeptics generally have not held up when confronted with data and methodological critiques. Instead, the skeptics tend to rely on unverified anecdotes or misunderstandings of the data.

There is a justifiable argument that the peer review process itself is unfair. Yet scientific rebels, from the late Nobel economics laureate Robert E. Lucas to mRNA vaccine scientists, have managed to use it to persuade others. Despite its faults, the peer review process does help to strengthen arguments.

As a general rule, one should not debate publicly with conspiracy theorists. Some conspiracies may be true and should not be dismissed out of hand. But any discussion needs to start by demanding the best available documented evidence, and then subjecting it to rigorous scrutiny. This is very often impossible to do in a public debate, where the unverified anecdote is elevated and methodological issues are obscured or unexamined. Furthermore, it takes more time to rebut a charge than to level it, and in the meantime the rebutter has no choice but to repeat some of the other side's talking points.

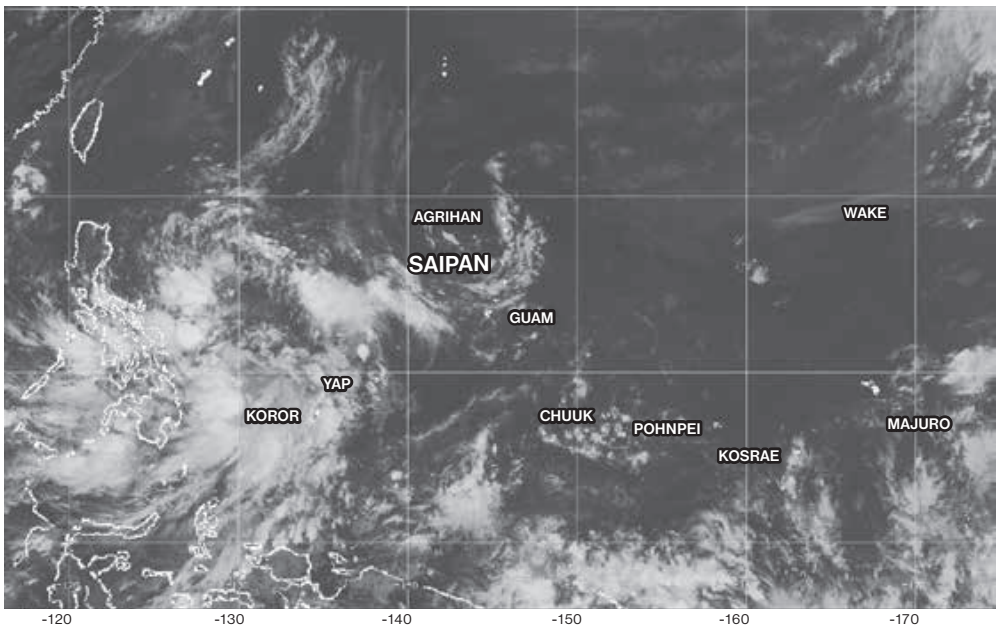
So when someone demands a public debate on an issue, be suspicious. Why can't the supposed truth be established by other means? Is it really helpful to throw so many scientific questions into the boiling cauldron of our delightful but chaotic culture of public debate? It may not be realistic, and it would definitely not be as exciting, but in many cases a better use of public resources would be to spend $100,000 on a panel of experts to summarize the best available evidence.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scattered showers, mainly before 7am. Mostly sunny | Isolated showers. Mostly sunny | Isolated showers before 7am. Mostly sunny | Mostly sunny | A chance of showers. Partly sunny |
| 86° 79° | 85° 79° | 87° 79° | 87° 80° | 86° 80° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 10:59 AM, MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Radar and satellite imagery showed the bulk of the showers and thunderstorms passing south of the local area. Earlier forecast indicated these showers would move over Guam and Rota. Updated forecast to decrease shower coverage over Guam and associated coastal waters from numerous to scattered. Decrease shower coverage over Rota to isolated from numerous.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/*

| MICRONESIA | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorms | 87° / 80° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 83° / 77° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 87° / 80° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 86° / 81° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 86° / 78° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 86° / 78° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 85° / 80° |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 5:55 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Wednesday | 5:55 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Thursday | 5:56 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Friday | 5:56 AM | 6:50 PM |
| Saturday | 5:56 AM | 6:50 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:00 AM | 7:24 PM | - |
| Wednesday | 6:52 AM | 8:07 PM | - |
| Thursday | 7:43 AM | 8:46 PM | - |
| Friday | 8:32 AM | 9:21 PM | - |
| Saturday | 9:19 AM | 9:55 PM | - |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Showers | 63° / 57° |
| Beijing | Sunny | 100° / 74° |
| Hong Kong | Thunderstorms | 88° / 82° |
| Honolulu | Mostly Sunny | 87° / 75° |
| London | Partly Cloudy | 72° / 54° |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 80° / 64° |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 91° / 79° |
| Melbourne | Partly Cloudy | 57° / 43° |
| Miami | Thunderstorms | 89° / 80° |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | 90° / 74° |
| Osaka | Rain | 82° / 73° |
| Paris | Sunny | 79° / 55° |
| Busan | Partly Cloudy | 79° / 66° |
| Rome | Sunny | 93° / 70° |
| Salem | Mostly Sunny | 94° / 75° |
| San Francisco | Windy | 66° / 54° |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 88° / 64° |
| Tokyo | Showers | 81° / 72° |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | 95° / 76° |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | FEET |
|---|---|---|
| 2:25 AM | Low Tide | 1.45 |
| 6:50 AM | High Tide | 1.92 |
| 2:26 PM | Low Tide | -0.08 |
| 9:42 PM | High Tide | 1.93 |

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2023

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117 | 9:50AM | 10:30AM | Daily |
| UA156 | 7:10PM | 7:55PM | 1, 4 |

**SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA824 | 7:25AM | 9:55AM | 1, 3, 5 |

**GUAM-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PR 111 | 5:55AM | 7:55AM | Daily |
| UA193 | 6:55PM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Palau |
| UA183 | 7:15PM | 9:10PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ626/703 | 4:20AM | 10:35PM | 1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN |
| UA117/183 | 9:50AM | 9:10PM | Daily via Guam |
| UA117/193 | 9:50AM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Guam, Palau |

**SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3467 | 3:00AM | 7:10AM | Daily up to July 20 |
| TW308 | 3:15AM | 7:00AM | Daily |
| OZ626 | 4:20AM | 7:55AM | Daily |
| 7C3403 | 4:45AM | 8:35AM | Daily |
| TW9308 | 4:45AM | 8:45AM | 1, 5 July 17 to Aug 18 |
| 7C3405 | 4:10PM | 7:45PM | Daily |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:50AM | Daily |
| UA112 | 5:15PM | 6:05PM | 1, 4 |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA825 | 9:25PM | 1:50AM+1 | 2, 4, 7 |

**MANILA (MNL)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184 | 10:25PM | 4:25AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA189 | 10:25PM | 6:10AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau |
| PR110 | 10:30PM | 4:25AM+1 | Daily |
| UA192 | 11:50PM | 5:35AM+1 | 2, 5 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184/174 via Guam | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6,7 |
| UA192/174 | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau, Guam |
| UA184/174 | 11:50PM | 8:45AM+1 | 2, 5 via Guam |

**INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3406 | 9:30AM | 3:10PM | Daily |
| 7C3468 | 8:20PM | 1:50AM+1 | Daily up to July 19 |
| TW307 | 8:30PM | 2:15AM+1 | Daily |
| OZ625 | 9:25PM | 2:55AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| TW9307 | 10:00PM | 3:45AM+1 | 6, 4 July 23 to Aug 20 |
| 7C3405 | 10:10PM | 3:40AM+1 | Daily |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | 8:30 | 9:00 | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:00 | 11:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 1302 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun |
| 1303 | 15:30 | 16:00 | Daily |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| LIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily |
| 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily |
| 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| 3102 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun |
| 3102 | 14:00 | 14:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 3103 | 16:30 | 17:00 | Daily |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily |

# Business

# Meena's to close after more than 40 years on Saipan

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI's local version of Walmart and Kohl's—Meena's in Chalan Kanoa—is closing after more than 40 years of outfitting local residents.

The Saipan retail store icon will shutter down on July 23 and starting last Saturday, July 15, has been holding a close-out sale where every item is buy one, take one.

Meena's ready-to-wear clothes—that range from underwear, to jeans, to dress shirts and format pants, and women's dresses and pants—are now priced as low as $1.

Supervisor Rina Manabat said Meena's is closing due to two factors—slow sales and the desire of its owner, Basi Hemlani, to retire the Saipan operation as his family is now based in Guam.

She said after its weeklong close-out sale, everything they didn't sell will be shipped to Guam, adding that they already filled one 40-foot container and will use another 40-foot container to bring what's left to their main store in the U.S. territory.

Aside from clothes, Meena's also sells spices and ingredients for Indian dishes.

Manabat, who worked for Meena's for six years, said at its height the store had as much as 10 employees. After the COVID-19 pandemic hit Saipan, she said sales turned from bad to worse.

She also thanked Hemlani for being a good and trusting owner as he helped all his employees not only financially but also emotionally.

Juliana Nekaifes, who has been with Meena's for about 18 years, said Hemlani treated his staff like family and that's the reason why she didn't look for another job.

She is sad that Meena's is closing because she considers the business one of the pioneers as far as RTW clothing is concerned on the island.

"It was very popular before. It was very popular with locals because of its large size for shirts, pants, and formal and semi-formal wear for all occasions," she said, adding that the pandemic truly was the death knell for the store as more than 50% of their sales went down.

Lisa Galang said in her short two years' stay at Meena's she enjoyed everyone's company and admired how Hemlani treated everyone as family.

After a generation of clothing the people on Saipan, the local community was understandably sad to see Meena's bid farewell.

"My family and I would go to Meena's to find and purchase much needed clothing for special occasions, like holy communion, confirmation, graduations, birthdays, etc. My family and I want to extend our gratitude to Meena's for their services and products to our CNMI community for many many years. It was our go-to shop for items we couldn't find elsewhere! We will miss them and wish them well," said Frances Sablan.

Erlinda Naputi, meanwhile, said one of her fondest memories of Meena's was when she was in fifth grade.

MARK RABAGO
Meena's supervisor Rina Manabat, left, and staff Juliana Nekaifes pose in front of the store that is closing after more than 40 years of doing business on Saipan.

MARK RABAGO
Meena's staff poses as the retail clothing store is in the midst of a close-out sale.

MARK RABAGO
Aside from clothes, Meena's also was famous for selling spices and ingredients for Indian cooking.

"I needed a black skirt for a school program. Not only did they have it, but it was within our price range. Meena's has provided many families with affordable clothing needs for many decades. Un dungkulu na Si yu'us ma'ase Meena's for providing Saipan with their clothing needs."

For Patrick Fieldad, Meena's brings fond memories of Saipan not too long ago.

"Meena's was a very nice place back in my younger days. I remember before all the other clothing stores started coming out, Meena's was one of our go-to-places. Before Moonlight Clothing there was Meena's. Though I have not bought clothes there as I remember, it was one of the many places my parents and I visited."

Floyd Masga said Meena's was the only place back then to find his size—husky.

"That's where big Saipan boys shop for shirts and pants," he said.

Cherry Lumbana said Meena's was very convenient because they used to provide free cutting for pants you purchase there.

"I usually buy my husband's work pants there and have been shopping there since 2015. I especially love their buy-five-for-$20 deal. That's five shirts for $20!"

Ray Angeles said while he didn't shop a lot at Meena's he understands its popularity in the community.

"Went there once and I actually didn't shop for clothes. Usually my parents buy clothes from there or I'll get gifts from there. Not really my style but the briefs are pretty good quality."

Feel Kalen said it sucks that the islands will lose another longtime store.

"Sadly, we're going to lose another good business. I bought clothes there, usually pants and T-shirts."

Meena's is located in Chalan Kanoa in front of the Aquarius Beach Tower and is open from 10am to 7pm. For more information on its close-out sale, call (670) 234-3225.

## Britain officially joins Asia-Pacific trade group

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (AP)—Britain on Sunday officially joined an Asia-Pacific trade group that includes Japan and 10 other nations during a meeting in New Zealand.

The trade bloc covers more than 500 million people and 15% of the world's economy. For Britain, it represents the largest trade deal it has struck since leaving the European Union more than three years ago.

Britain first announced in March it had reached an agreement to join the bloc, which was created in 2018, after more than two years of negotiations. It is the first new member to join the bloc, called the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

It also includes New Zealand, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

"We are honored to become the CPTPP's first new member and to join this extraordinary community of now 12 economies spanning Asia, the Pacific and now Europe," said British Trade Minister Kemi Badenoch. "This is a modern and ambitious agreement and our membership of this exciting, growing and forward-looking bloc is proof that the UK's doors are open for business."

Badenoch said that more than half a million Britons already work for companies from the bloc's member nations.

Shigeyuki Goto, Japan's economic minister, said adding Britain would strengthen the bloc.

"The fact that this was done in a way that maintains the high standards of agreement sets an exemplary precedent for future accessions," Goto said.

The deal comes as Britain pursues greater engagement with the Indo-Pacific. Critics say the deal is insignificant compared to Britain's trade with its neighbors in the 27-nation EU.

## Yellen visits India again to promote closer ties, tackle global economic problems

**GANDHINAGAR, India** (AP)—On the heels of a trip to Beijing, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is back in India for the third time in nine months, this time to meet finance ministers from the Group of 20 nations about global economic challenges like the increased threat of debt defaults facing low-income countries.

Yellen told reporters in Gandhinagar, the capital of the western Indian state of Gujarat, on Sunday that she was trying to foster warming relations between the U.S. and India. She also plans a stop in Hanoi, Vietnam, to address supply chain reliability, clean energy transition and other matters of economic resilience.

Yellen said her goals for her time in India were to press for debt restructuring in developing countries in economic distress, push to modernize global development banks to make them more climate-focused and deepen the ever-growing U.S.-India relationship.

Yellen's frequent stops in the country signal the importance of that relationship at a time of tension with China.

India's longstanding relationship with Russia has also loomed as the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine continues despite U.S. and allied countries' efforts to sanction and economically bludgeon Russia's economy. India has not taken part in the efforts to punish Russia and maintains energy trade with that country despite a Group of Seven agreed-upon price cap on Russian oil, which has seen some success in slowing Russia's economy.

Yellen said ending the war in Ukraine "is first and foremost a moral imperative. But it's also the single best thing we can do for the global economy."

She added the U.S. would continue to cut off Russia's access to the military equipment and technologies that it needs to wage war against Ukraine.

"One of our core goals this year is to combat Russia's efforts to evade our sanctions. Our coalition is building on the actions we've taken in recent months to crack down on these efforts," Yellen said.

The U.S. increasingly relies on India and has courted its leaders.

She said the U.S. sees India as an indispensable partner in its friend-shoring strategy for increasing the resilience of supply chains.

# Nation

# Death Valley sizzles as brutal heat wave continues

AP
People walk along a trail as the sun sets, Sunday, July 16, 2023, in Death Valley National Park, Calif.

**DEATH VALLEY, Calif.** (AP)—Long the hottest place on Earth, Death Valley put a sizzling exclamation point Sunday on a record warm summer that is baking nearly the entire globe by flirting with some of the hottest temperatures ever recorded, meteorologists said.

Temperatures in Death Valley, which runs along part of central California's border with Nevada, reached 128 degrees Fahrenheit (53.33 degrees Celsius) on Sunday at the aptly named Furnace Creek, the National Weather Service said.

The hottest temperature ever recorded on Earth was 134 F (56.67 C) in July 1913 at Furnace Creek, said Randy Ceverny of the World Meteorological Organization, the body recognized as keeper of world records. Temperatures at or above 130 F (54.44 C) have only been recorded on Earth a handful of times, mostly in Death Valley.

"With global warming, such temperatures are becoming more and more likely to occur," Ceverny, the World Meteorological Organization's records coordinator, said in an email. "Long-term: Global warming is causing higher and more frequent temperature extremes. Short-term: This particular weekend is being driven by a very very strong upper-level ridge of high pressure over the Western U.S."

Furnace Creek is an unincorporated community within Death Valley National Park. It's home to the park's visitor center, which includes a digital thermometer popular with tourists. On Sunday afternoon, dozens of people gathered at the thermometer — some wearing fur coats as a joke — hoping to snap a picture with a temperature reading that would shock their friends and family.

That digital thermometer hit 130 degrees at one point on Sunday, but it's not an official reading. The National Weather Service said the highest temperature recorded on Sunday was 128 F (53.3 C) — a high that was unlikely to be surpassed as the sun went down.

A few miles away at Badwater Basin — the lowest point in North America at 282 feet (85.95 meters) below sea level — tourists took selfies and briefly walked along the white salt flats ringed by sandy-colored mountains as wisps of clouds crawled overhead. Meteorologists say that thin cloud cover most likely kept temperatures from reaching potential record highs.

William Cadwallader lives in Las Vegas, where temperatures reached 116 F (46.67 C) on Sunday, nearing the all-time high of 117 degrees. But Cadwallader said he's been visiting Death Valley during the summer for years just to say he's been to the hottest place on Earth.

"I just want to go to a place, sort of like Mount Everest, to say, you know, you did it," he said.

The heat wave is just one part of the extreme weather hitting the U.S. over the weekend. Five people died in Pennsylvania on Saturday when heavy rains caused a sudden flash flood that swept away multiple cars. A 9-month-old boy and a 2-year-old girl remained missing. In Vermont, authorities were concerned about landslides as rain continued after days of flooding.

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Suspect in 4 Georgia deaths killed in shootout with police

**HAMPTON, Ga.** (AP)—Officers on Sunday shot and killed a man wanted in four weekend killings near Atlanta during an exchange of gunfire, with a sheriff's deputy and two police officers wounded while trying to take the suspect into custody, authorities said. Officials said Andre Longmore was shot during an intense manhunt for the 40-year-old suspect. The exchange of gunfire came a day after Saturday morning's shootings rocked a bucolic subdivision in Hampton, south of Georgia's main city. Officials said Longmore was killed about 15 miles (25 kilometers) to the north of Hampton in suburban Jonesboro. Clayton County police said a Henry County sheriff's deputy saw the SUV that Longmore stole from one of the victims and began chasing him, calling for help. After exchanging gunfire with Longmore, Clayton police said he ran away. Justin Robinson told told WANF-TV that Longmore entered the backyard of a townhouse. "He had a gun, he was bleeding, he was naked," Robinson said.

Robinson said he alerted police officers, who were greeted with gunfire when they entered the townhouse where Longmore had hidden.

### Heavy rains swamp Northeast again as flash flooding claims at least 5 lives in Pennsylvania

**WASHINGTON CROSSING, Pa.** (AP)—Heavy rains pounded an already saturated Northeast on Sunday for the second time in a week, spurring another round of flash flooding, cancelled airline flights and power outages. In Pennsylvania, a sudden flash flood late Saturday afternoon claimed at least five lives. Officials in Bucks County's Upper Makefield Township in Pennsylvania said torrential rains occurred around 5:30 p.m. Saturday in the Washington Crossing area, sweeping away several cars. At least five people died and two childen, a 9-month-old boy and his 2-year-old sister, remained missing, authorities said. Other parts of the East Coast were experiencing heavy rain, including Vermont. Authorities there said landslides could become a problem Sunday as the state copes with more rain following days of flooding. "There are flash flood warnings throughout the state today. Remain vigilant and be prepared," Vermont Gov. Phil Scott said. Sunday's strong storms led to hundreds of flight cancellations at airports in the New York City area, according to the tracking service FlightAware. More than 350 flights were canceled at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey alone, while more than 280 flights were canceled at Kennedy International Airport in New York. Hundreds of flights were delayed.

### 6 dead and 3 injured in two-car collision in Washington

**TACOMA, Wash.** (AP)—The death toll of a two-car collision rose from five to six Sunday afternoon in Tacoma, Washington, according to law-enforcement officials. The initial four survivors were in "critical condition" after the midday crash, announced Trooper John Dattilo, a spokesperson for Washington State Patrol. But by Sunday afternoon, one had died, joining five others killed by the collision. Dattilo said the Major Accident Investigation Team is responding to the crash. But he did not provide further information. "We extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of those involved," he said on Twitter.

## Judge in Trump documents case under the spotlight as arguments near

**MIAMI** (AP)—A month after former President Donald Trump was charged with mishandling classified documents, the judge presiding over the case is set to take on a more visible role as she weighs competing requests on a trial date and hears arguments this week on a procedural, but potentially crucial, area of the law.

A pretrial conference Tuesday to discuss procedures for handling classified information will represent the first courtroom arguments in the case before U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon since Trump was indicted five weeks ago. The arguments could provide insight into how Cannon intends to preside over the case while she also confronts the unresolved question of how to schedule Trump's trial as he campaigns for president.

Those issues would be closely watched in any trial involving a former president. But Cannon could face additional scrutiny in light of a much-dissected ruling she issued last year that granted the Trump team's request for a special master to conduct an independent review of the reams of classified records removed by the FBI from his Mar-a-Lago estate. A three-judge federal appeals panel reversed her order, rebuking Cannon for a ruling it said she lacked the legal authority to make in the first place.

Cannon's ruling, in a lawsuit Trump brought against the Justice Department, elicited criticism from legal experts who saw her as overly preferential to the former president. It also focused public attention on her limited experience as a judge, particularly in hugely sensitive national security matters, given that she was appointed to the bench just three years ago by Trump.

Still, some Florida lawyers say there's no doubt, as the judge now assigned to Trump's criminal case, that she's mindful of the stakes of the most politically explosive federal prosecution in recent memory.

"She is not going to want to do anything but go by the book. The challenge is there has never been a book like this," said Kendall Coffey, a former U.S. Attorney in Miami who served on the advisory committee that reviewed Cannon's judicial application. He said he was impressed with her credentials and felt confident she would be able to oversee the case fairly.

"I think she is going to want to be very well-regarded for her judicial leadership of this case," Coffey said.

Jeffrey Garland, a criminal defense lawyer in Fort Pierce, Florida — where Cannon's courtroom is based — praised Cannon for her handling of a trial he had before her last year in which he represented a "quite difficult" defendant who'd been charged with throwing a chair at a federal prosecutor.

"She was able to maintain the dignity of the court and courtroom composure, and she was able to express control in ways that were not threatening," Garland said, adding that he assumed Cannon would be able to do the same in the Trump case. "I think she understands that's what a federal judge has to do in a case like this. It's true in any case, but especially in this case."

Cannon — a Duke University graduate and Colombian-born daughter of a Cuban immigrant — clerked for a U.S. Circuit Court judge and worked as an assistant U.S. attorney in Florida, prosecuting several dozen cases as part of her office's Major Crimes Division and later handling appeals of convictions and sentences, before being nominated by Trump in 2020. She's also been a member of the Federalist Society, a conservative legal organization.

Her ruling in the Trump lawsuit last September catapulted her into the spotlight since it effectively halted core aspects of the Justice Department's investigation into the hoarding of classified documents. In overturning the order, the appeals court said that letting it stand would have allowed a "radical reordering of our caselaw limiting the federal courts' involvement in criminal investigations."

# World

## Putin says Russia has 'sufficient stockpile' of cluster bombs

**KYIV, Ukraine** (AP)—South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol made a surprise visit to Ukraine on Saturday, offering support for the invaded country in its war with Russia while demonstrating his own nation's cooperation with NATO.

Yoon's office said he traveled to Ukraine with his wife, Kim Keon Hee, following trips to Lithuania for a NATO summit and to Poland. It's his first visit since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Yoon toured Bucha and Irpin, two small cities near Kyiv where bodies of civilians were found in the streets and mass graves after Russian troops retreated from the capital region last year. He laid flowers at a monument to the country's war dead, before he sat down for a summit with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

South Korea, a key U.S. ally in Asia, joined international sanctions against Russia and has provided Ukraine with humanitarian and financial support to Ukraine. But the Asian nation, a growing arms exporter, hasn't provided weapons to Ukraine in line with its longstanding policy of not supplying arms to countries actively engaged in conflict.

During a joint news conference with Zelenskyy later Saturday, Yoon announced plans to expand support shipments to Ukraine but didn't touch upon weapons supplies.

Yoon began his statement with a mention of the U.N. forces' support of South Korea during the 1950-53 Korean War that helped repel a North Korean invasion.

"The current situation facing Ukraine reminds us of the past situation of the Republic of Korea," Yoon said.

Zelenskyy thanked Seoul for its "firm support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity" and the "significant political, security, economic and humanitarian aid" it has supplied since the start of Russia's invasion.

Yoon said that South Korea will increase the shipments of nonlethal military items such as body armor and helmets this year. He said that South Korea will also provide humanitarian aid worth $150 million this year, up from $100 million last year. He said that South Korea has also sent the de-mining equipment and other aid items that had been requested by Ukraine.

Yoon said that he and Zelenskyy agreed on cooperating on post-war reconstruction efforts in Ukraine. Yoon said South Korea will also launch a scholarship fund named after him and Zelenskyy to expand support for Ukrainian students in South Korea.

South Korea isn't a NATO member, but like Japan, Pakistan and a handful of other countries, it's considered a global partner of the military alliance. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida visited Ukraine in March.

In his recent written responses to questions from The Associated Press, Yoon said that the security of the Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions is closely intertwined, saying: "In particular, the war in Ukraine has reminded us all that a security crisis in one particular region can have a global impact."

Yoon took office last year amid a mix of tough foreign policy challenges such as North Korea's advancing nuclear program and the intensifying rivalry between the U.S., South Korea's main security ally, and China, its biggest trading partner.

During a January visit to South Korea, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg called for the country to provide direct military support to Ukraine, saying Kyiv was in urgent need of weapons to fight off the prolonged Russian invasion.

In May, when Yoon met Ukrainian first lady Olena Zelenska in Seoul, the president said he would expand South Korea's nonlethal aid to Ukraine. Yoon's office said at the time that Zelenska made no request for South Korean weapons supplies.

Later in May, Yoon and Zelenskyy met for the first time on the sidelines of a Group of Seven industrialized nations summit in Hiroshima, Japan. Zelensky thanked South Korea for its humanitarian shipments of medicines, computers and generators and requested additional provisions of non-lethal items, Yoon's office said.

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, South Korea has reached billions of dollars worth of deals to provide tanks, howitzers, fighter jets and other weapons systems to NATO member Poland.

An American official said in November that the United States had agreed to buy 100,000 artillery rounds from South Korean manufacturers to provide to Ukraine, although South Korean officials have maintained that the munitions were meant to refill depleted U.S. stocks.

## Kerry in Beijing as US seeks to raise China relations from historic low

**BEIJING** (AP)—U.S. climate envoy John Kerry was holding talks Monday with his Chinese counterpart in Beijing as the U.S. seeks to restore contacts amid disputes over trade, Taiwan, human rights and territorial claims.

China's official Xinhua News Agency said Kerry was meeting Monday with Xie Zhenhua for the first extensive face-to-face climate discussions between representatives of the world's two worst climate polluters after a nearly yearlong hiatus.

China is the world's largest producer and consumer of coal and has proceeded with building new plants, while at the same time forging ahead with renewables such as solar and wind power.

Yet, Congressional Republicans questioning of Kerry ahead of his trip at times broke down into challenging the existence of the scientifically established fact of climate change.

But with Republicans as well as Democrats overall accepting the science underlying the warming climate, much of the criticism from GOP committee members zeroed in on the appropriateness of the U.S. engaging in climate negotiations with China.

China has pledged to level-off carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and become carbon neutral by 2060. The U.S. and the European Union have urged China to adopt more ambitious reduction targets.

U.S. lawmakers faulted China for refusing to make bigger cuts in climate-damaging fossil fuel emissions and the country's insistence that it was still a developing economy and should not be held to the same climate standards as developed Western economies.

Kerry responded that the clear disparity between China's claims and the size of its economy as the world's second largest could not be allowed to deadlock global progress on cutting emissions. He also ruled out the likelihood of persuading China to hold itself to the same emissions-cutting requirements facing other big economies, at least on this visit.

Kerry is the third senior Biden administration official in recent weeks to travel to China for meetings with their counterparts there, after Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen.

China broke off some mid- and high-level contacts with the Biden administration, including over climate issues, to show its anger with then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's August trip to self-ruled Taiwan. China claims Taiwan as its territory and held menacing military exercises around the island to advertise its threats of blockade and invasion that could draw the U.S. into a major conflict in a region crucial to the global economy.

## S. Korea's death toll from destructive rainstorm grows to 40

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—Heavy downpours lashed South Korea a ninth day on Monday as rescue workers struggled to search for survivors in landslides, buckled homes and swamped vehicles in the most destructive storm to hit the country this year.

At least 40 people have died, 34 others are injured and more than 10,000 people have had to evacuate from their homes since July 9, when heavy rain started pounding the country. The severest damage has been concentrated in South Korea's central and southern regions.

In the central city of Cheongju, hundreds of rescue workers, including divers, continued to search for survivors in a muddy tunnel where about 15 vehicles, including a bus, got trapped in a flash flood that may have filled up the passageway within minutes Saturday evening.

The government has deployed nearly 900 rescue workers to the tunnel, who have so far pulled up 13 bodies and rescued nine people who were treated for injuries. It wasn't immediately clear how many people were in the submerged cars.

As of Monday afternoon, rescue workers had pumped out most of the water from the tunnel and were searching the site on foot, a day after they used rubber boats to move and transport bodies on stretchers.

Hundreds of emergency workers, soldiers and police were also looking for any survivors in the southeastern town of Yechon, where at least nine people were dead and eight others listed as missing after landslides destroyed homes and buckled roads, the county office said.

Photos from the scene showed fire and police officers using search dogs while waddling through knee-high mud and debris from destroyed homes.

Nearly 200 homes and around 150 roads were damaged or destroyed across the country, while 28,607 people were without electricity over the past several days, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety said in a report.

The Korea Meteorological Administration maintained heavy rain warnings across large swaths of the country. Torrential rains were dumping up to 3 centimeters (1.2 inches) per hour in some southern areas. The office said the central and southern regions could still get as much as 20 centimeters (7.9 inches) of additional rain through Tuesday.

Returning from a trip to Europe and Ukraine, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol held an emergency government meeting. He called for officials to designate the areas hit hardest as special disaster zones to help funnel more financial and logistical assistance into relief efforts.

In Loving Memory of
† Josephine C. Dela Cruz
Born to Life: May 15, 1955
Called to Eternal Life:
July 8, 2023 at Honolulu, Hawaii
In her new life she now joins her:
Son: +Mariano Dela Cruz
Reared Parents: +Mariano F. & +Maria E. Aquino
Parents: +Francisco Masga Dela Cruz & +Ana Terlaje Cogure
Brothers: +Antonio Aquino (Yap), +Sixtus E. Aquino,
+Regino E. Aquino, +Daniel E. Aquino, +Quirino E. Aquino
Sisters: +Margarita Aquino (Yap), +Alicia C. /+Roger Galang,
+Julie C. Dela Cruz
Her love and memories will forever remain in the hearts of her:
Daughter and Spouse: Tina Dela Cruz/Keith Robert P. Pangelinan
Grandson: Drake Constantine D. Pangelinan
Granddaughters: Danica Jade D. Pangelinan, Britney Madison D. Pangelinan
Miah Renisha Peter Dela Cruz
Brothers & Sisters:
Juan E. /Marylee P. Aquino & Family
Remedio Elameto & Family
Cynthia D./+Ambrose Pushparaj & Family
Lou D./Bob J. Lloyd & Son
Bernie D./Jim Clevenger & Family
Francisco C. Dela Cruz
Lucia D./Vicente Torres & Family
Joseph C./Virginia A. Dela Cruz & Family
Erokolano C./Maryann T. Dela Cruz & Family
Rudy C./Rheeta Dela Cruz & Son
She is additionally survived by numerous Uncles, Aunts, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, Godchildren, and Friends.
Daily Mass is being offered at San Antonio Church. Monday to Saturday at 6pm, and 7am on Sundays.
Funeral Services will be announced at a later date.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase - Thank You
From the Family

# Health & Wellness

## Proper posture and body alignment

**DEAR MAYO CLINIC: My grandmother lives with me, and she is always nagging me to "stand up straight" and "put your shoulders back." She says good posture will keep me healthy as I age. But I'm only 17. Does it really matter if I'm slouching a bit?**

**ANSWER:** Though it may seem annoying, your grandmother is correct in that good posture supports good health. And starting good habits now, though it requires conscious effort, can help you throughout your life.

DREAMSTIME/TNS

Proper body alignment can help prevent excess strain on your joints, muscles and spine.

Proper body alignment can help prevent excess strain on your joints, muscles and spine—alleviating pain and reducing the likelihood of injury. As a bonus, correct posture can boost your productivity and mood, as well as help you use your muscles more efficiently. And starting good habits now can last a lifetime when they are needed most.

You may wonder what does proper posture look like? Use the "wall test" to find out:

■ Stand so that the back of your head, your shoulder blades and your buttocks touch the wall, and your heels are 2 to 4 inches from the wall.

■ Put a flat hand behind the small of your back. You should be able to just barely slide your hand between your lower back and the wall for a correct lower back curve.

■ If there's too much space behind your lower back, draw your belly button toward your spine. This flattens the curve in your back and gently brings your lower back closer to the wall.

■ If there's too little space behind your lower back, arch your back just enough so that your hand can slide behind you.

■ Walk away from the wall while holding a proper posture. Then return to the wall to check whether you kept a correct posture.

Unfortunately, ideal posture often is the exception rather than the rule. Poor posture can affect you from head to toe, contributing to several problems no matter your age.

These are among the most common problems resulting from poor posture:

■ Headache. Poor posture can strain the muscles at the back of your head, neck, upper back and jaw. This can put pressure on nearby nerves and trigger what are known as tension-type or muscle-spasm headaches.

■ Back and neck pain. Pain and tightness or stiffness in the back and neck can be due to injury and other conditions, such as arthritis, herniated disks and osteoporosis, but poor posture is a common contributor. Though rarely life-threatening, back and neck pain can be chronic and reduce your quality of life.

■ Knee, hip and foot pain. Muscle weakness; tightness or imbalances; lack of flexibility; and poor alignment of your hips, knees and feet may prevent your kneecap, or patella, from sliding smoothly over your femur. The ensuing friction can cause irritation and pain in the front of the knee, a condition known as patellofemoral pain. Poor foot and ankle alignment also can contribute to plantar fasciitis, a condition in which the thick band of tissue connecting your heel to the ball of your foot becomes inflamed and causes heel pain.

■ Shoulder pain and impingement. Your rotator cuff is a group of muscles and tendons that connect your upper arm to your shoulder. Muscle tightness, weakness or imbalances associated with poor posture can cause the tendons in your rotator cuff to become irritated and cause pain and weakness. A forward, hunched posture also can cause these tendons to become pinched, or impinged. Eventually, this can lead to a tear in the rotator cuff tissue, a more serious injury that can cause significant pain and weakness, and limit your ability to carry out daily activities.

■ Jaw pain. A forward head posture may strain the muscles under your chin and cause your temporomandibular, or TMJ, joint to become overworked. This may result in pain, fatigue and popping in your jaw, as well as difficulty opening your mouth, headaches and neck pain.

■ Fatigue and breathing problems. Poor postural habits may restrict your rib cage and compress your diaphragm. This can reduce lung capacity, leading to shallow or labored breathing, fatigue and lack of energy, which can affect your overall productivity.

### Tips to improve your posture

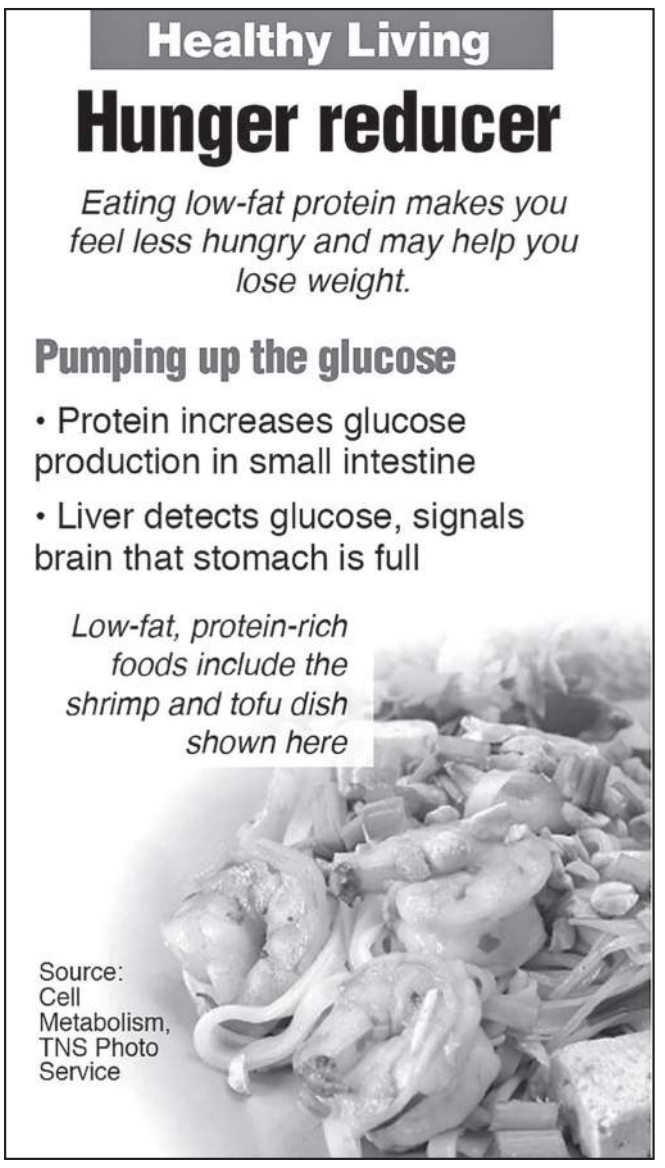
Here are three ways to improve your posture while standing, sitting and lying in bed:

1. While walking, stand tall. Inhale, roll your shoulders up and back, then exhale and roll your shoulders down, as if you are gently tucking your shoulder blades into your back pockets.

2. Try seated pelvic tilts. Sit on the edge of a chair, place your hands on your thighs and rest your feet on the floor. Inhale and rock your pelvis and ribs forward while you open your chest and look upward. Exhale, rock your pelvis and spine back and look down toward the floor.

3. Do a wake-up or bedtime bridge pose. Lie on your back in bed with your knees bent and your feet resting on the mattress. Inhale, then slowly exhale and curl your tailbone to lift your buttocks and spine, one vertebra at a time, until your shoulder blades bear your weight. Pause and inhale, then slowly exhale as you roll your spine back down.

Improving your posture can help prevent or reverse many conditions. You'll be amazed to see how your quality of life can improve—simply by standing a little taller.***—Compiled by Mayo Clinic staff (Mayo Clinic News Network)***


Healthy Living
Hunger reducer
Eating low-fat protein makes you feel less hungry and may help you lose weight.
Pumping up the glucose
• Protein increases glucose production in small intestine
• Liver detects glucose, signals brain that stomach is full
Low-fat, protein-rich foods include the shrimp and tofu dish shown here
Source: Cell Metabolism, TNS Photo Service

## Is there a wrong way—or time—to nap?

**DEAR MAYO CLINIC: I am retired, and although I generally enjoy less hectic days now, I keep busy. Part of my routine includes trying to squeeze in a nap on most afternoons. My wife tells me that I'm doing it wrong because I often wake up groggy. Is there a wrong way—or time—to nap?**

**ANSWER:** Closing your eyes for a few minutes during your busy day may seem like a good idea. It can refresh and recharge you. Is there a wrong way to nap? Only if the naps cause negative effects on other aspects of your life.

For your daily nap routine, it's important to consider the time of day and length of time you nap, as these can provide benefits or create problems.

On the plus side, a nap can improve your mood, speed your reaction time, improve your memory, reduce fatigue and increase your alertness. A regular nap can make your afternoon more productive.

There are some potential drawbacks of napping every day. First is sleep inertia. It's the temporary grogginess and feeling disoriented after a nap. This can become a problem if you have places to be or tasks to complete after you wake up from your nap. Regular naps can interfere with your nighttime sleep routine, too, especially if your naps are too long or close to bedtime. If you experience insomnia or poor sleep quality at night, napping may worsen these problems. Short naps are the best when trying to avoid interference with nighttime sleep.

Follow these four tips to get the most out of your naps:

■ Set aside an allotted amount of time. If you wake up feeling groggy after a nap, you're sleeping too long. The ideal nap length is between 15 and 30 minutes. If you want to make naps a part of your daily routine, have a planned time of day and length of time to keep your schedule on track.

■ Plan to take naps in the afternoon. The ideal time to nap is around 2 p.m. or 3 p.m. This is because you are likely to experience a lower level of alertness or sleepiness following lunch. You're also more likely to avoid interference with nighttime sleep if you nap around this time. However, some people may adjust their napping times to fit their work or school schedules.

■ Create a tranquil environment. Some people struggle to sleep during the day, but there are actions you can take to help you become more relaxed. Eliminate distractions when napping. Turn off any screens, including your phone. Find a quiet space with minimal light. Adjusting the room temperature to what is comfortable for you also can make your space more relaxing.

■ Give yourself time to wake up. It's normal to wake up a little groggy after a nap, but that feeling should dissipate shortly. Allow yourself enough time after your nap to wake up before resuming activities, so you are alert and ready to tackle the rest of your day.

Before lying down to take a daily nap, you may want to think about why you began taking these naps. If you've been working the night shift or are a new parent, you probably have reason to be closing your eyes for a while. On the other hand, if you feel that a nap is essential to your daily functioning, you may have a bigger health problem that should be addressed with your health care team.

Talking to your health care team is the best way to find out why you're experiencing increased fatigue. The reasons for your exhaustion could be related to anything from having a sleep disorder such as sleep apnea to a side effect from a new medication.***—Dr. Tiffany Casper , Family Medicine, Mayo Clinic Health System, Tomah, Wisconsin (Mayo Clinic News Network)***

# Life & Style

# ‘Mission: Impossible’ debuts with $80M over five days

**NEW YORK** (AP)—After a globe-trotting publicity blitz by star Tom Cruise, “Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One” launched with a franchise-best $80 million over five days, though it came in shy of industry expectations with a $56.2 million haul over the three-day weekend, according to studio estimates.

The Paramount Pictures debut was boosted by strong overseas sales of $155 million from 70 markets. But while a $235 million worldwide launch marked one of the best global openings of the year, “Dead Reckoning” couldn’t approach the high-speed velocity of last summer’s top film, “Top Gun: Maverick.”

PARAMOUNT PICTURES VIA AP

This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Hayley Atwell, left, and Tom Cruise in a scene from “Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning, Part One.”

“Dead Reckoning Part One,” the seventh film in the 27-year-old series, had been forecast to better the franchise high of the previous installment, “Fallout,” which opened with $61 million domestically in 2018. Instead, it also fell short of the $57.8 million “Mission: Impossible II” debuted with in 2000.

That puts the film’s opening-weekend tally very close to the tepid launch of Disney’s “Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny,” which opened in U.S. and Canadian theaters with $82 million over five days and $60 million over the three-day weekend. Paramount and Skydance had higher hopes for the action extravaganza of “Dead Reckoning,” which cost $290 million to make, not counting marketing expenses.

Those costs were inflated, in part, by the pandemic. “Dead Reckoning,” directed by Christopher McQuarrie, was among the first major productions shut down by COVID-19. It was preparing to shoot in Italy in March 2020. When the film got back on track, McQuarrie and Cruise helped lead the industry-wide recovery back to film sets – albeit with some well-publicized friction over protocols along the way.

- “Mission: Impossible—Dead Reckoning Part One,” $56.2 million.
- “Sound of Freedom,” $27 million.
- “Insidious: The Red Door,” $13 million.
- “Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny,” $12 million.
- “Elemental,” $8.7 million.
- “Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse,” $6.1 million.
- “Transformers: Rise of the Beasts,” $3.4 million.
- “No Hard Feelings,” $3.3 million.
- “Joy Ride,” $2.6 million.
- “The Little Mermaid,” $2.4 million.

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### Actor, singer and style icon Jane Birkin dies in Paris at age 76

**PARIS** (AP)—Actor and singer Jane Birkin, who made France her home and charmed the country with her English grace, natural style and social activism, has died at age 76. The London-born star and fashion icon was known for her musical and romantic relationship with French singer Serge Gainsbourg. Their songs notably included the steamy "Je t'aime moi non plus" ("I Love You, Me Neither"). Birkin's ethereal, British-accented singing voice interlaced with his gruff baritone in the 1969 duet that helped make her famous and was forbidden in Italy after being denounced in the Vatican newspaper. Birkin was also synonymous with a Hermes bag that bore her name. Created by the Paris fashion house in 1984 in her honor, the Birkin bag became one of the world's most exclusive luxury items, with a stratospheric price tag and years-long waiting list to buy it.

### Lisa Marie Presley died from small bowel obstruction caused by bariatric surgery, coroner says

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Lisa Marie Presley died from complications from bariatric surgery she had several years ago, authorities said Thursday. The January 12 death at age 54 of the singer, songwriter and heir of Elvis Presley was ruled as being from natural causes due to effects of a small bowel obstruction. Additional details about what caused Presley's death were included in an autopsy report released Thursday afternoon by the office of the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner. Presley died at a Los Angeles hospital, where she had been rushed by paramedics responding to a 911 call of a woman in cardiac arrest at her home. No indication was made public at the time of what may have caused the medical issue.

### Hollywood actors join screenwriters in historic industry-stopping strike as contract talks collapse

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Leaders of Hollywood's actors' union voted Thursday to join screenwriters in the first joint strike in more than six decades, shutting down production across the entertainment industry after talks for a new contract with studios and streaming services broke down. It's the first time two major Hollywood unions have been on strike at the same time since 1960, when Ronald Reagan was the actors' guild president. In an impassioned speech as the strike, which begins at midnight, was announced, actors' union president and former "The Nanny" star Fran Drescher chastised industry executives. "Employers make Wall Street and greed their priority and they forget about the essential contributors that make the machine run," Drescher said. "It is disgusting. Shame on them. They stand on the wrong side of history."

### 2 suspects in the fatal shooting of rapper Young Dolph in Memphis to stand trial in March

**MEMPHIS, Tenn.** (AP)—A judge on Friday set a trial date for two men charged in the killing of rapper Young Dolph in a daytime ambush at a bakery in Memphis, Tennessee. Justin Johnson and Cornelius Smith are scheduled to stand trial March 11 in the fatal shooting of the Memphis-born rapper, Shelby County Criminal Court Judge Lee Coffee said during a hearing. Johnson and Smith have pleaded not guilty to charges including first-degree murder in the November 2021 shooting of Young Dolph, whose real name was Adolph Thornton Jr. A motive for the killing has not been disclosed. The 36-year-old rapper, label owner and producer was buying cookies near his boyhood home in Memphis when he was gunned down by two men who drove up to the bakery in a stolen Mercedes Benz, authorities said.

## Woman hopes for a deeper connection with new DIL

**DEAR ABBY:** Twelve years ago, my son “Will” married “Mara.” They dated in high school, wound up at the same college and eloped during their freshman year (way too young). In spite of their somewhat rocky relationship over the years, Mara and I always got along well. She became the daughter I never had, and she referred to me as “my other mom” when introducing me to her friends.

Through her, I also became close friends with her mother, “Ivy,” a relationship that continues to this day. When the marriage was ending, I grieved not only for the marriage but also for what I thought would be the end of my relationship with both Mara and Ivy. It didn’t happen. Mara and I are still in contact. We email, text and call each other often.

Happily, Will is fine with us being in touch and with my friendship with Ivy. He and Mara had what must be the most amicable divorce in history. The two of them (and their new spouses) are all great friends and see each other regularly.

Will married “Carrie” three years ago, and Carrie is perfect for him. I love her for the way she loves him and how great they are together. But I’m sad to say that Carrie and I aren’t close the way Mara and I were (and still are), and I’m not sure what to do about it.

Carrie has had a busy life between going to college and a full-time job, and we don’t get to see each other much. She doesn’t like to talk on the phone, and I don’t like Facebook, so we’re not in contact except for a few random texts and emails here and there. I’d really like to be closer to Carrie, but I’m not sure how to get there. Any suggestions?

TORN BETWEEN TWO DAUGHTERS

**DEAR TORN: Your relationship with Mara developed over a long period of time. Carrie hasn’t had the time to devote to a relationship with you because of her schooling and her job. As much as you might wish it, it isn’t possible to “clone” relationships. The one you have with Mara and Ivy is deep-rooted.**

**If Carrie is finished with school now, her schedule may open up enough so the two of you can manage some one-on-one time if you take the initiative and invite her. A weekend “girls” lunch, spa afternoon or shopping together may be the way to approach it.**

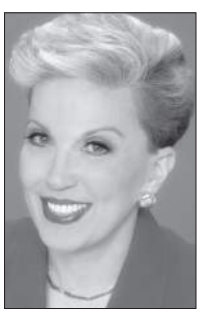
■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I have a question about saying grace. I’m not religious, but I do consider myself respectful of others’ religious practices. There is one issue, however, that I’d like some guidance on. When visiting someone’s house and they ask me, the newcomer, to say grace, what do I do? I don’t mind partaking in the custom; I understand it and I am not offended. But saying grace is beyond what I’m comfortable with. What’s the way out of this situation without being disrespectful or compromising a strong view of my own?

WONDERING IN THE MIDWEST

## DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

**DEAR WONDERING: In the moment, you could always offer a friendly, complimentary deferral such as, “Oh, I’m sure you’ll do a much better job at it than I could!” If it happens again, talk privately with your hosts and explain you are not formally religious and not in the habit of saying grace before meals, which is why you would prefer not to be asked.**

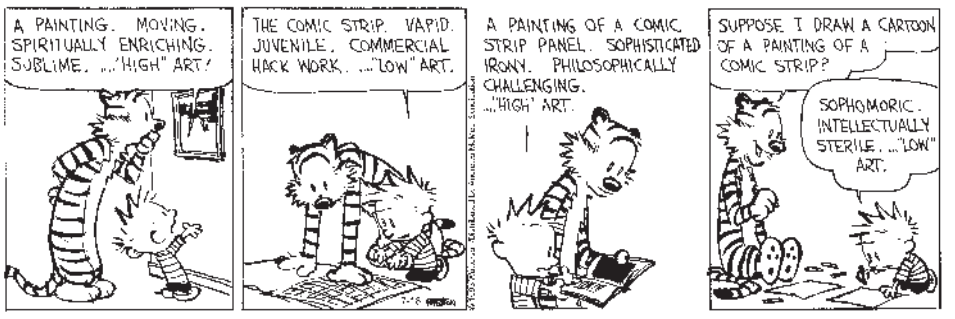
■ ■ ■

*To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


A PAINTING. MOVING. SPIRITUALLY ENRICHING. SUBLIME. ..."HIGH" ART!
THE COMIC STRIP. VAPID. JUVENILE. COMMERCIAL HACK WORK. ..."LOW" ART.
A PAINTING OF A COMIC STRIP PANEL. SOPHISTICATED IRONY. PHILOSOPHICALLY CHALLENGING. ..."HIGH" ART.
SUPPOSE I DRAW A CARTOON OF A PAINTING OF A COMIC STRIP?
SOPHOMORIC. INTELLECTUALLY STERILE. ..."LOW" ART.

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

IT'S NOT ALL THE TIME, BUT IT'S ANNOYING AS HECK!
DIFFERENT TIMES DURING THE DAY, I START GETTING A RINGING IN MY EAR.
POST, NURSE BILL HIM $100 FOR THE BLUETOOTH EAR BUD I'M ABOUT TO REMOVE.

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 Quasimodo's creator
5 Zorro's garment
9 Baseball execs
12 Portent
13 Mideast gulf
14 Tic-tac-toe win
15 Big name in crystal
17 Texter's chuckle
18 Currier's partner
19 Sill
21 Blubbers
24 Calico's call
25 Ellipse
26 Book addendum
30 Volleyball barrier
31 Zodiac ram
32 — kwon do
33 Glitch-causing gnomes
35 Alpha follower
36 Grate
37 Challenges
38 Barbecue site
40 Folk singer Joan
42 Lawyers' org.
43 Drops from a cloud
48 Irritate
49 Oodles
50 Woody Guthrie's son
51 NFL's Manning
52 Lawman Eliot
53 Kick back

**DOWN**

1 "In what way?"
2 Ms. Thurman
3 Retrieve
4 Playwright Eugene
5 Parisian eatery
6 Big fusses
7 Apiece
8 Infinite
9 Candidate of 1964
10 Synthesizer pioneer
11 Only
16 Motor homes
20 Dawn goddess
21 Sound from Big Ben
22 Declare
23 Harbor transport
24 "The Simpsons" bar
26 Clench
27 — -Manuel Miranda
28 Assess
29 Pro votes
31 Loser
34 Avril follower
35 Marketplace
37 Lawn coating
38 Cover with blacktop
39 Cain's brother
40 Book blurbs, basically
41 Colony denizens
44 Ginger —
45 Three, in Rome
46 Golfer Ernie
47 Hogwash

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | C | T | O | ■ | U | P | S | ■ | M | E | M | O |
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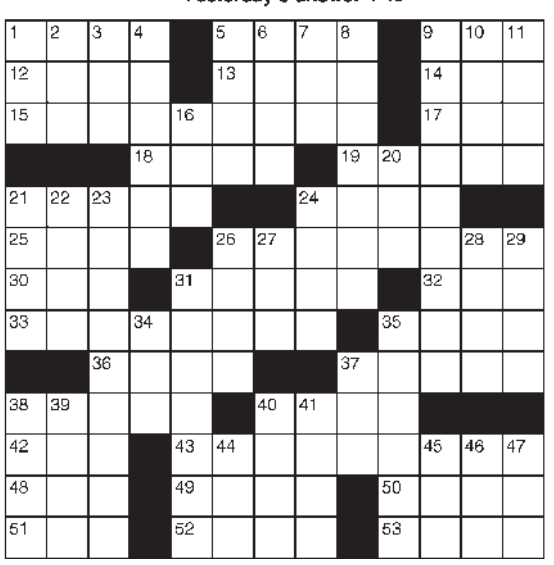
| ■ | ■ | ■ | O | R | G | S | ■ | B | E | S | I | S |
| B | A | A | B | A | A | ■ | H | C | W | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| L | I | M | B | ■ | S | P | E | C | I | A | L | S |
| E | D | I | E | ■ | S | A | R | A | N | D | O | N |
| W | A | R | D | ■ | O | R | B | ■ | D | O | L | L |

Yesterday's answer 7-18



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Chace Crawford, 38; Priyanka Chopra, 41; Kristen Bell, 43; Vin Diesel, 56.

**Happy Birthday:** Lift any barriers holding you back and prepare to forge ahead enthusiastically. Act, live up to your promises and influence those searching for a better lifestyle. Don't make unnecessary physical changes or give a false impression to the people you want to impress. Be yourself, follow through with your plans, and let your charm and intelligence win the respect and support you require to reach your goal. Your numbers are 6, 13, 17, 25, 36, 40, 44.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Let your actions send an encouraging message to others to pitch in and help. Get involved in an event that makes you feel passionate about a cause and hopeful about the future. Mix business with pleasure, and you'll connect with someone interesting. ✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Reevaluate along the way, and you'll make better decisions. Concentrate on what's necessary instead of taking on too much and falling short of your goal. Timing and expertise will be essential if you want to be successful. Put your energy where it counts. ✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Mingle with people who share your interests. The information you pick up will help you restructure how you want to move forward. Change only what benefits you. Don't take a risk with your health or assets. Travel and educational pursuits are favored. ✪✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Place more faith in yourself and what you can do to make a difference. How you navigate your way through conversations and responsibilities will encourage others to offer suggestions and hands-on help. Discipline and determination will get you where you want to go. ✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Think before taking on too much, or overstepping your boundaries will result in backlash. Live up to your promises, and you'll reach your expectations. Handle money, health and contracts with discipline and a no-nonsense attitude. Pay attention to details and your appearance. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take control before situations get blown out of proportion. Exaggeration will lead to confusion and disappointment. Size up situations, do your research and adjust whatever has the potential to lead to trouble. Be responsible, and nurture meaningful relationships to avoid an argument. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You're in a favorable position. Embrace opportunities that come your way. Set up an interview or start something new, and you'll head down a unique path. Enjoy time spent with loved ones or those who share the same things as you. ✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Share the information you verify to avoid repercussions. Don't force your will onto others or succumb to temptation or indulgent behavior. Be true to yourself and those you want to remain in your life. Protect your position, reputation and health. ✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Stay calm, relaxed and collected, and you'll make headway. Don't take the bait if someone tries to coerce you into an argument. Stick to the facts and use restraint to avoid being put in an uncomfortable position. Choose peace and love over chaos. ✪✪✪✪✪

**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make domestic changes that lower your overhead and encourage you to initiate a strict budget. A partnership looks promising if you divide responsibilities equally. Make your intentions clear, and you'll find out where you stand. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Talks will lead to trouble, and false information will cause emotional setbacks and disrupt your plans. A straightforward approach regarding love, romance and your lifestyle will help alleviate the effects of making a costly error. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Try something exciting. A creative venue will spark your interest and encourage you to take the plunge and start a new adventure. Expand your plans to include a means to turn what you enjoy doing into a profitable endeavor. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are fun-loving, generous and talkative. You are energetic and persistent.

*✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 4 | | 3 | | | | |
| | | | 5 | | 4 | 1 | 2 | |
| 6 | | 1 | 9 | 7 | | | 3 | |
| 3 | | | 8 | 4 | 7 | 5 | | |
| 4 | 1 | 2 | | 5 | 6 | | | 7 |
| 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | | 9 | | | |
| 2 | 6 | | 4 | | | | | 5 |
| | 4 | | | | | 6 | 9 | |
| 1 | | | | 8 | | 2 | | |

Difficulty: ★★ 7/18

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesturday's Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 3 |
| 1 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| 9 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 8 |
| 3 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 2 |
| 8 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| 4 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 |
| 2 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 7 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 6 |

Difficulty: ★ 7/17

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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

STEGANOGRAPHY — Solution: 7 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | S | C | A | M | E | R | A | N | E | T | W | O | R | K |
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| R | U | D | E | D | F | I | L | E | Y | O | E | N | S | T |
| E | N | T | N | B | E | M | L | P | N | N | O | C | E | E |
| T | D | T | I | A | M | U | E | T | I | I | I | R | S | S |
| T | W | V | X | T | R | U | E | G | T | T | C | Y | S | C |
| A | E | O | I | E | L | N | N | A | S | E | S | P | E | O |
| P | T | N | R | S | T | E | C | I | S | T | B | T | C | M |
| U | N | L | R | D | U | I | T | E | E | S | L | I | O | P |
| Z | E | I | S | E | N | A | C | M | R | S | O | O | R | U |
| Z | M | N | P | U | T | U | L | A | G | U | G | N | P | T |
| L | U | E | M | S | R | N | P | R | I | N | T | E | G | E |
| E | C | M | A | I | E | D | I | H | D | R | O | C | E | R |
| S | O | F | T | W | A | R | E | L | A | T | I | G | I | D |
| C | D | Y | S | P | E | C | T | R | O | G | R | A | M | P |

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**Yesterday's Answer: Collection**

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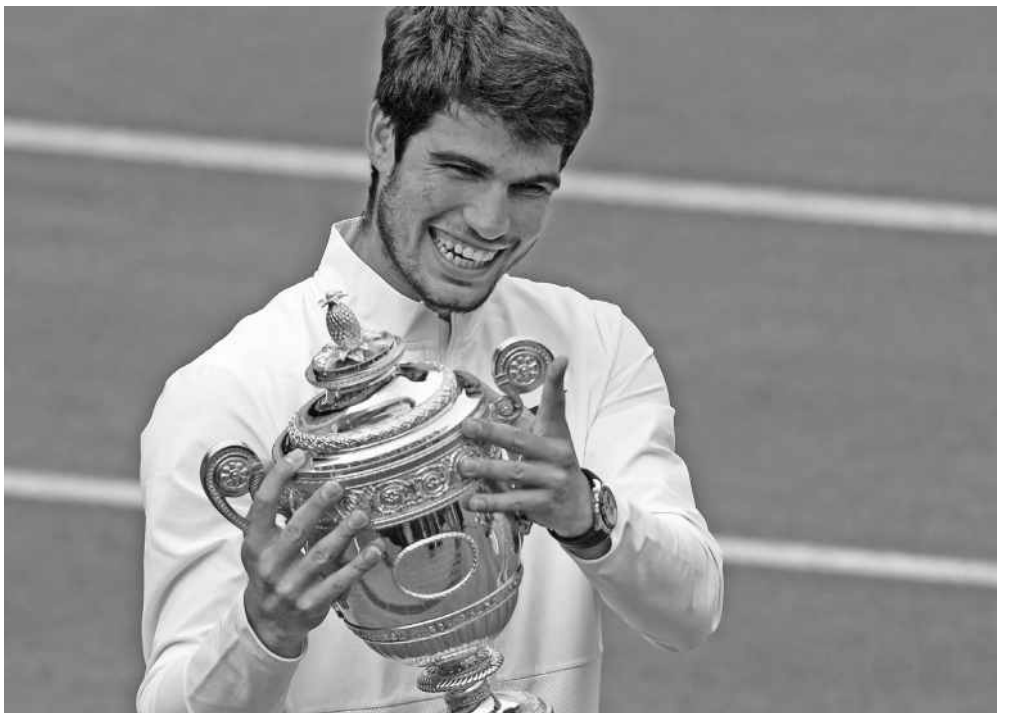
# Alcaraz beats Djokovic in 5 sets to win 2nd Grand Slam trophy

**WIMBLEDON, England** (AP)—A poor start left Carlos Alcaraz a single point from a two-set hole against Novak Djokovic in the Wimbledon final.

That sort of deficit is daunting for anyone, let alone a 20-year-old in his second major final, and against anyone, let alone Djokovic, someone who hadn't lost at Centre Court in a decade, someone seeking a fifth consecutive championship, and record-tying eighth overall, at the All England Club. Someone who won the year's first two Grand Slam tournaments and 23 over his career.

Ah, but Alcaraz, last year's U.S. Open champ, wanted this shot at Djokovic, someone he called "a legend of our sport." Said it would make winning Wimbledon that much more special. And so Alcaraz managed to come through in that tiebreaker as choruses of "Car-los! Car-los!" from the stands competed with cries of his older, more experienced, more accomplished foe's two-syllable nickname, "No-le! No-le!" And then Alcaraz came through in a 32-point, 25-minute masterpiece of a game soon thereafter. And, crucially, the Spaniard came through in the crucible of a fifth set, too.

Add it all up, and the No. 1-ranked Alcaraz marked himself as the star people have been predicting he would be, transforming potential into triumph and putting an end to Djokovic's 34-match winning streak at the All England Club all in one fell swoop by edging him 1-6, 7-6 (6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 in an engaging, back-and-forth final on Sunday. Alcaraz claimed his first title at Wimbledon and second Grand Slam trophy overall.



AP

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates with the trophy after beating Serbia's Novak Djokovic to win the final of the men's singles on day fourteen of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Sunday, July 16, 2023.

"Didn't get down, didn't give up," said Alcaraz, the third-youngest man to win the grass-court major in the Open era, which began in 1968, after Boris Becker and Bjorn Borg. "We made great rallies, great points. It was a long, long match. Long sets. It was the mental part that allowed me to stay there."

He is the first man outside the elite quartet of Djokovic, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray to win Wimbledon since 2002 and, to many, this symbolized a transfer of power in men's tennis.

"I haven't played a player like him. Ever," said Djokovic, quite a statement from a guy who competed against Federer and Nadal for so long and in so many remarkable matches.

"He's proven," Djokovic said, "that he's the best player in the world, no doubt."

The age gap between Alcaraz and the 36-year-old Djokovic, who wiped away tears during the trophy ceremony, was the widest in any men's Slam final since 1974.

So Alcaraz had youth on his side, which he also did, of course, when they met in the French Open semifinals last month. That one was extraordinary for two sets before Alcaraz cramped up and faded. This time, he had the stamina and the strokes to get past Djokovic—and the belief that he could win.

After Alcaraz made nine unforced errors in the opening set to Djokovic's two, showing signs of the nerves that hit him in Paris, things began to shift Sunday. At 4-all in the second set, Djokovic slipped on a worn patch behind the baseline under the Royal Box, flinging his racket away as he fell. At the next changeover, Djokovic flexed one leg by bending it over the other, then plopped his left heel on the net for additional stretching.

They would head to a tiebreaker, Djokovic's dominion: He had won all six such set-enders he played at Wimbledon leading up to the final, and 15 straight in Grand Slam action.

Unflustered by a warning from chair umpire Fergus Murphy for taking too much time to serve, Djokovic pulled ahead 6-5. A set point.

But two netted backhands by Djokovic put Alcaraz within a point of that set.

"The backhands kind of let me down," Djokovic would say later.

Alcaraz then struck a backhand passing winner off the return of a 118 mph serve, holding the pose of his follow-through. As people in the stands rose to roar, Alcaraz spun around with his right hand to his ear, soaking in the moment.

"If I would have lost that set, probably I couldn't lift the trophy," Alcaraz said. "I probably could have lost in three sets."

They were two hours and two sets in.

One set each.

Now it was a match.

It began to feel memorable.

The fifth game of the third set might have been worth the high price of admission, in and of itself. Neither man wanted to bend. Neither wanted to cede a thing. It was one game, yes, but seemed meaningful.

When Djokovic slapped a forehand into the net to get broken — one of five times he dropped serve in the match, more than his previous six opponents managed combined — Alcaraz celebrated his 4-1 edge in the set by throwing his head back and screaming "Vamos!"

But Djokovic did not go away. He raised his level again, pushing this terrific tussle to a fifth set.

One of several reasons to like Djokovic's chances at that juncture: He went into Sunday with a 10-1 record in five-setters at Wimbledon and 35-9 at all majors.

Those matches, however, were in the past.

Alcaraz is the future.

His serves top 130 mph. His sledgehammer of a forehand tops 100 mph, unleashed in such a manner as to make an observer believe every ounce of strength, every fiber of his being, is invested in each swing. The smack of the racket, and his "Uhhh-ehhh!" exhale of exertion—along with the gasps of impressed onlookers—reverberated around the arena.

He displays as varied a game as possible, from his volleying ability to the well-disguised drop shots that helped him get back into the thick of it in the second and third sets.

Djokovic, meanwhile, is equipped with an abundance of talents, too, and so much muscle memory. So often, he would hustle and stretch and slide nearly into the splits to get Alcaraz's apparent point-ending shots back in ways no one else could.

Plus, he's been there, and done that, in ways Alcaraz, for now, can only dream of.

But if this victory on a windy and cloudy day is any indication, Alcaraz is on his way to achieving quite a bit himself.

He moved out front for good by breaking to go up 2-1 in the fifth with a backhand passing winner. Djokovic, who fell during the point but quickly popped back up, reacted by slamming his racket into the net post, letting go on impact. He destroyed his equipment and earned a code violation from Murphy.

"Frustration in the moment," Djokovic called it.

They would play on for another 24 minutes, but Alcaraz never relented, never gave way, no matter the skill and will possessed by the man across the net. And it was Alcaraz, not Djokovic, who covered his face and rolled in the grass after the final point, then received the gold trophy.

"It's something that I will never forget," Alcaraz said. "That's for sure."

# Kobe's legacy in the NBA lives on in a new way

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—There's Kobe, wearing the uniform of a team from Los Angeles. There's Kobe, the last one on the court at practice and getting yelled at because the buses are waiting for him.

How fitting. Just like old times.

There will never be another Kobe Bryant, of course. And make no mistake—Kobe Brown and Kobe Bufkin would be the first two players at NBA Summer League to insist that there will never be another Bryant. They would never pretend otherwise. But for the first time since the Hall of Famer retired in 2016, the NBA is about to have fans watching guys named Kobe again.

Brown is in Summer League with the Los Angeles Clippers. Bufkin is entering his rookie year with the Atlanta Hawks. Both were named for Bryant, who—for now—is the only player named Kobe to make it to the NBA. In a couple of months, that seems likely to change.

"It means a lot," Brown said. "There's definitely a target on my back, I feel like. A lot of guys, when they hear the name Kobe, they think of Kobe Bryant. Obviously, I'm not him, by any means. But I try to keep that edge and play as hard as I can, just like he did."

It's impossible to know exactly how many people are named Kobe. It remains relatively unusual.

According to the Social Security Administration, there was a six-year stretch—1998 through 2003, coinciding with Bryant's early years in the NBA and first three championship seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers—when the trend of giving babies that name peaked; the most was in 2001, when 1,552 baby boys had Social Security card applications filed for them with that name.

The name still had a small following, maybe a few hundred babies each year, until 2020, the year that Bryant, daughter Gianna and seven others died in a helicopter crash on a foggy Sunday in Southern California. Another 1,500 boys were given that name that year, surely many in tributes to Bryant's life and career; the most popular name that year for newborn boys, according to the government data, was Liam, which was used about 20,000 times. (There were also variations, such as Kobee and Kobey, and a few dozen American newborn girls were given the name as well in 2020.)

"It's never affected me too much when it comes to playing ball," said Bufkin, who was born in 2003. "I try not to think about it as much when I'm actually on the court. But obviously carrying the name comes with a certain work ethic that you've got to try to match. And it's hard as hell to match it. If I get halfway there, I'll be all right."

Case in point: The Hawks had a Summer League practice this week that was scheduled to go for 45 minutes, with a bit of shooting afterward. Most players were off the court after about an hour and 15 minutes. Almost all of them had their sneakers off and were ready to head to the bus a few minutes after that, but Bufkin was still on the court, working on drives from half-court against a defender.

"Just trying to follow the blueprint," Bufkin said.

The popularity of the Los Angeles Lakers great remains overwhelming 3 1/2 years after his death.

Bryant jerseys are still extremely common among Lakers fans. Nike plans to re-relaunch the Kobe brand this summer, and Bryant is the cover athlete for two editions of NBA 2K24 — "NBA 2K24: Kobe Bryant Edition" and "NBA 2K24: Black Mamba Edition," with the tie-in there being the 24 that was one of Bryant's two NBA jersey numbers. And there is another tribute of sorts coming at the Basketball World Cup; Minnesota's Anthony Edwards is set to wear No. 10 for USA Basketball this summer, the number Bryant donned when he played for the national team.

"It just shows how much he inspired generations," Bufkin said. "I was kind of part of the first generation to come behind him, and it's crazy that our parents were willing enough to name us after him."

Brown has never been inside Crypto.com Arena, the building that the Clippers call home, as do the Lakers. It's the arena — then called Staples Center — where Bryant played half his games in his 20 seasons with the Lakers, scored his career-best 81 points against Toronto in 2006 and called home for five championship runs and 18 All-Star campaigns.

"It's definitely a blessing," Brown said. "I'm excited to go inside the building, see it, actually play where he played all those years and did so much for the city of Los Angeles."

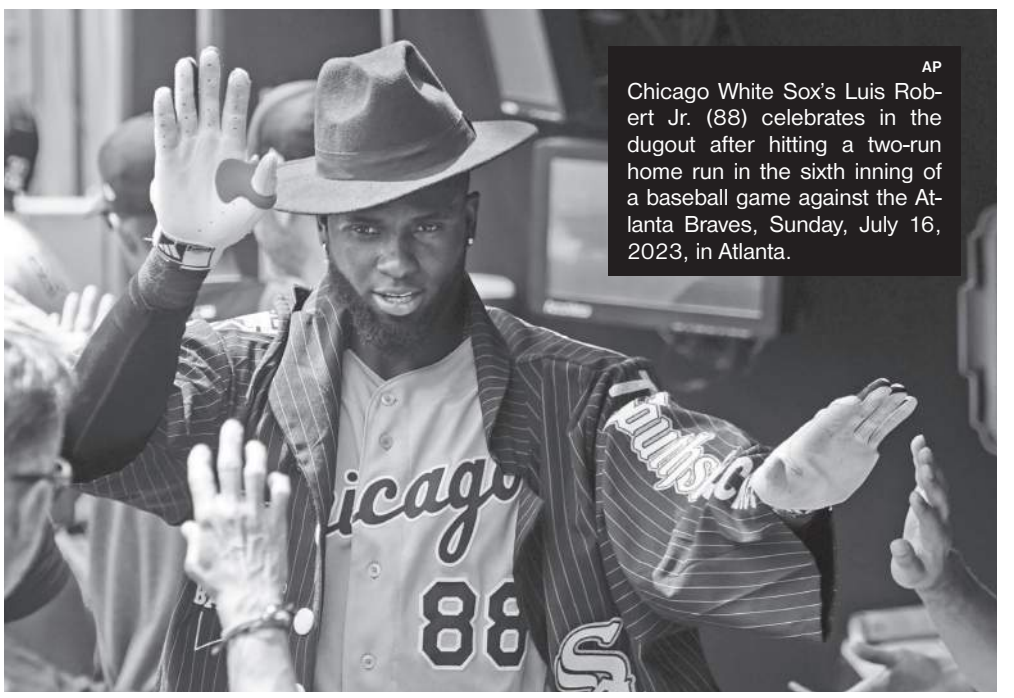
# White Sox stop Braves' series win streak at 11

**ATLANTA** (AP)—Dylan Cease won for the first time in nearly two months, Luis Robert Jr. had four hits that included a two-run homer and the Chicago White Sox beat Atlanta 8-1 on Sunday to stop the Braves' streak of 11 consecutive series wins.

Cease (4-3) had eight straight no-decisions since beating Cleveland on May 23, the most within a season in White Sox history. He allowed one run and three hits in five innings.

Reynaldo López, Aaron Bummer and Jesse Scholtens finished a five-hitter and ended the Braves' streak of consecutive games with home runs at a franchise-record 28. Atlanta had been 7-0 in the decisive third games of three-game series this season.

Braves left-hander Kolby Allard (0-1) was pulled with left shoulder tightness after allowing four runs and seven hits in 1 1/2 innings.



AP

Chicago White Sox's Luis Robert Jr. (88) celebrates in the dugout after hitting a two-run home run in the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves, Sunday, July 16, 2023, in Atlanta.

## ROYALS 8, RAYS 4

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—Bobby Witt Jr. homered and tripled with three RBIs, and Kansas City earned its second win in 10 games.

In a game that sped by in 1 hour, 54 minutes, Brady Singer (6-8) allowed four runs and seven hits in a season-high eight innings as Kansas City improved to 27-67, the second-worst record in the major leagues and ahead of only Oakland.

He needed 70 pitches through seven innings and led 7-0 before Isaac Paredes hit a solo homer and Francisco Mejía hit a three-run drive for the AL-best Rays (60-36).

## ORIOLES 5, MARLINS 4

**BALTIMORE** (AP)—Kyle Bradish took a shutout into the eighth inning and Danny Coulombe retired Luis Arraez on a game-ending lineout with a runner on second as Baltimore held off Miami's late rally.

The Orioles won their eighth straight game, but not before nearly blowing a 5-0 lead in the ninth. Arraez, flirting with .400 for much of the season, lined out to left field to end it. He went 0 for 5, dropping his batting average to .380.

Anthony Santander hit his 100th career home run for the Orioles, who began the day two games behind Tampa Bay atop the AL East. They were up 3-0 before Miami opener Steven Okert (3-1) got an out in the first inning, and Bradish (6-4) took it from there. He allowed three hits and a walk with eight strikeouts in 7 1/3 scoreless innings, working deep into the game after Baltimore used its top two relievers each of the previous two nights.

## RANGERS 6, GUARDIANS 5

**ARLINGTON, Texas** (AP)—Josh Jung's two-run single capped a four-run eighth inning as AL West-leading Texas rallied to complete a three-game series sweep.

All four runs in the inning came off Trevor Stephan (4-4), who walked Marcus Semien and Corey Seager with one out before giving up an RBI single to Nathaniel Lowe, an RBI double to Adolis Garcia and a single to Jung.

Will Smith pitched a scoreless ninth inning for his 16th save in 18 opportunities after Cody Bradford (2-1) pitched three innings.

## METS 2, DODGERS 1, 10 INNINGS

**NEW YORK** (AP)—After failing to get a bunt down, pinch-hitter Luis Guillorme doubled home the winning run in the 10th inning to give New York a victory over Los Angeles.

Max Scherzer held the NL West leaders to one hit in seven shutout innings, and New York stopped the Dodgers' six-game winning streak. Brandon Nimmo had an RBI groundout as the Mets snapped a four-game skid with their first victory since the All-Star break.

David Robertson (4-2) pitched two scoreless innings in his first outing since July 7. He stranded a runner at third in the 10th with the help of a nice play by shortstop Francisco Lindor.

Nick Robertson (0-1) took the loss on his 25th birthday.

## BLUE JAYS 7, DIAMONDBACKS 5

**TORONTO** (AP)—Danny Jansen hit a three-run double in the eighth inning to give Toronto what turned out to be an important cushion, and the Blue Jays beat Arizona for a three-game sweep.

Kevin Kiermaier and Santiago Espinal each had two hits and an RBI and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. broke a 2-all tie with a sacrifice fly in the fifth as Toronto picked up its sixth sweep of the season and won for the eighth time in nine games.

Jay Jackson (2-0) relieved Yusei Kikuchi with two outs in the fifth and retired all three batters he faced. Tim Mayza got one out, Trevor Richards worked the seventh and Yimi García pitched the eighth.

## GIANTS 8, PIRATES 4, 10 INNINGS

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Michael Conforto and Patrick Bailey hit two-run doubles in a five-run 10th inning, and San Francisco beat Pittsburgh to finish a three-game sweep and extend their winning streak to five.

Pittsburgh tied the score 3-3 in the eighth when Andrew McCutchen singled in his first game off the injured list and came home on Jared Triolo's sacrifice fly.

With automatic runner Casey Schmitt on second, Wilmer Flores singled off Yerry De Los Santos (0-1) starting the 10th and Joc Pederson hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly.

Ryan Walker (3-0) struck out one in a perfect ninth, and Scott Alexander allowed Henry Davis' RBI single in the 10th.

## BREWERS 4, REDS 3

**CINCINNATI** (AP)—Milwaukee opened a two-game lead over Cincinnati in the NL Central, overcoming a two-run deficit to beat the Reds for the fifth time in a six-game stretch, behind rookie Andruw Monasterio's tiebreaking single in a two-run eighth inning.

With the Reds leading 3-2, Willy Adams walked against Lucas Sims (3-2) starting the eighth and took third on Jesse Winker's single. Owen Miller hit a sacrifice fly, All-Star closer Alexis Díaz relieved and Raimel Tapia flied out.

Hoby Milner (1-0) allowed one hit in two scoreless innings, and Devin Williams needed just nine pitches in a perfect ninth for his 23rd save in 25 chances.

## ASTROS 9, ANGELS 8

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** (AP)—Alex Bregman connected for a two-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning for his fourth hit of the game, Chas McCormick went deep twice and Houston rallied from a four-run deficit to defeat Los Angeles despite Shohei Ohtani's major league-leading 34th homer of the season.

Kyle Tucker had four hits, including a solo shot in the ninth inning. The Astros trailed 7-5 going into the ninth before scoring four off Jaime Barria (2-5).

Rafael Montero (2-3) got the win and Phil Maton picked up his first save.

## PHILLIES 7, PADRES 6, 12 INNINGS

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Kyle Schwarber hit his 25th home run and ended the game with a 12th-inning sacrifice fly, leading Philadelphia over San Diego.

With automatic runner Edmundo Sosa on second base starting the 12th, Johan Rojas sacrificed against side-arming left-hander Tim Hill (1-4) and Schwarber hit a 304-foot fly to Juan Soto in left. Sosa slid home easily ahead of Soto's throw.

Jeff Hoffman (3-1) retired six straight batters.

San Diego manager Bob Melvin was ejected in the 12th by crew chief Dan Bellino after a pitch-clock violation call, Melvin's fifth ejection this season and the 59th of his managing career.

Phillies starter Zack Wheeler allowed three runs and five hits in seven innings with seven strikeouts and no walks.

## ROCKIES 8, YANKEES 7, 11 INNINGS

**DENVER** (AP)—Nolan Jones led off the 11th inning with a tying, two-run homer off Nick Ramirez, Alan Trejo hit a game-ending drive off Ron Marinaccio and Colorado beat New York to take two of three.

Colorado, a National League-worst 36-58, overcame a 3-1 deficit when C.J. Cron hit an eighth-inning grand slam off Clay Holmes, the first home run allowed by the right-hander this season.

Playing into the 11th for the first time this year, the Yankees opened a 7-5 lead against Gavin Hollowell (1-0) on run-scoring singles by Oswaldo Cabrera and Oswald Peraza, who was recalled from the minors when Josh Donaldson was put on the injured list Sunday because of a strained right calf.

## RED SOX 11, CUBS 5

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Masataka Yoshida hit a grand slam and a two-run triple, powering Kutter Crawford and Boston to a blowout over Chicago.

Rafael Devers and pinch-hitter Triston Casas also homered for the surging Red Sox, who have won seven of eight. Crawford allowed one hit in six shutout innings. Crawford (4-4) struck out nine and walked four.

Yoshida launched the second grand slam of his rookie season in Boston's five-run fifth against All-Star lefty Justin Steele. Yoshida added a two-run triple in the seventh, and a single in the ninth off catcher-turned-reliever Tucker Barnhart.

Steele (9-3) allowed six runs and 10 hits over six innings after tossing a scoreless inning at Tuesday's All-Star Game.

## TWINS 5, ATHLETICS 4

**OAKLAND, Calif.** (AP)—Alex Kirilloff homered in the fifth inning and hit a three-run double in the seventh, leading Minnesota to victory and a series sweep.

Minnesota trailed most of the game and was down 3-2 entering the seventh following a shaky outing from starter Joe Ryan. Ryan had seven strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings but allowed five hits and three runs.

Max Kepler's one-out single off JP Sears started the rally and extended his on-base streak at the Coliseum to 14 games dating to July 2017. After reliever Lucas Erceg (2-1) walked Christian Vázquez, pinch-hitter Edouard Julien hit a sharp grounder to third base that Aledmys Díaz fielded but dropped while transferring the ball to his throwing hand.

Sears, winless since June 11, had seven strikeouts, didn't walk anyone, and allowed four hits and three runs in 6 1/3 innings.

Jorge López (3-2) retired four batters for the win. Jhoan Duran earned his 15th save, getting Tony Kemp to line out to center field for the final out with the potential tying run at second base.

## MARINERS 2, TIGERS 0

**SEATTLE** (AP)—Bryce Miller tossed five sharp innings in his return from the injured list, Cal Raleigh hit his 12th home run and Seattle blanked Detroit to avoid a three-game sweep.

Seattle got back to .500 with 70 games left in the regular season, but it was an overall disappointing weekend coming out of the All-Star break for the Mariners.

Miller (6-3) had been sidelined since leaving his June 30 start with a blister on the middle finger of his pitching hand. The rookie right-hander scattered five hits and struck out three.

Matt Brash, Justin Topa, Andrés Muñoz and Paul Sewald combined to allow one hit over the final four innings. Sewald earned his 18th save.

The Tigers were shut out for the 11th time and did not get a runner to third base.

Raleigh's homer in the fourth off starter Reese Olson (1-3) was his first since June 25. Jarred Kelenic hit an RBI double in the first on his 24th birthday. J.P. Crawford had three hits and a walk for the Mariners.

## CARDINALS 8, NATIONALS 4

**ST. LOUIS** (AP)—Jack Flaherty won a fourth straight start for the first time in two years, and St. Louis beat Washington to take two of three in the series.

Flaherty (7-5) allowed three runs, three hits and three walks in six innings with seven strikeouts. Chris Stratton pitched a perfect seventh and Kyle Leahy relieved after a 38-minute rain delay. Leahy got one out and JoJo Romero the final five.

Nationals All-Star Josiah Gray (6-8) gave up four runs and 10 hits in five innings.

Keibert Ruiz homered in the second, ending Flaherty's 13 2/3 innings scoreless streak.

# Vingegaard keeps yellow jersey as Poels soloes to victory in 15th stage

**SAINT-GERVAIS MONT-BLANC, France** (AP)—With just one week of racing left in the Tour de France, the duel for the ages between Jonas Vingegaard and Tadej Pogacar could still go either way.

Vingegaard kept intact his 10-second overall lead over the two-time champion on Sunday as Dutch veteran Wout Poels soloed to victory after a tough trek in the Alps with a mountaintop finish.

The 35-year-old Poels, who was part of an early breakaway in Sunday's 179-kilometer (111-mile) 15th stage, took advantage of a short but very steep ascent located just before the final 7-kilometer (4-mile) climb leading to the finish line to move away.

Wout van Aert, a key teammate of Vingegaard, finished second, more than two minutes behind, with Mathieu Burgaudeau completing the stage podium.

AP

Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar, wearing the best young rider's white jersey, sprint towards the finish line of the fifteenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 179 kilometers (111 miles) with start in Les Gets Les Portes du Soleil and finish in Saint-Gervais Mont-Blanc, France, Sunday, July 16, 2023.

Locked in a pulsating fight for the yellow jersey since the start of the race, Vingegaard and Pogacar once again stayed together and kept an eye on each other throughout the day in the group of main contenders.

The two riders have been a cut above the rest of the field over the last two weeks—third-place Carlos Rodriguez lags 5 minutes, 21 seconds behind—and again proved to be the strongest of all main contenders ahead of Monday's second rest day.

Pogacar tried to sprint away from his rival 900 meters from the line but Vingegaard, the defending champion, immediately jumped on his wheel and did not lose any time. Their duel will resume in Tuesday's time trial.

"I felt that Jonas was super good and I knew that I couldn't really drop him," Pogacar said. "The climb was too easy. I know the time trial pretty good. I hope it suits me pretty well."

After the time trial, the pair will have two more mountain stages to settle their exciting rivalry before the race concludes in Paris next Sunday.

For Poels, it had been a long wait before he finally claimed a first stage win at the Tour de France, after serving for years as a so-called super domestique in support of the leaders of the mighty Team Sky and Ineos. He joined the Bahrain Victorious team at the end of the 2019 season.

"I really love this moment. I always dreamt of winning a stage in the Tour de France," Poels said. "I really enjoyed my time with Team Sky. It was an incredible experience, but yet I never could fight for stage win."

It was the second stage win for Bahrain-Victorious, which has been mourning the loss of Gino Mäder, who died last month from injuries suffered in a crash at the Tour de Suisse.

"Obviously, with Gino, it has a special meaning," Poels added.

A day after a mass crash forced several riders out of the race, there was another huge pile-up after 52 kilometers of racing when a spectator on the side of the road inadvertently touched American rider Sepp Kuss—a key teammate of Vingegaard—and sent him to the ground.

Jumbo-Visma said Dylan van Baarle and Nathan van Hooydonck were among those who hit the tarmac. Vingegaard was riding close to his teammates but escaped unscathed.

"There was a narrowing in a town, just a spectator was out in the road and just clipped my handlebar," Kuss said. "Luckily I'm okay, I think. I hope that the other guys in the crash are alright. It's not ideal."

Riders went back on their bikes and returned to the main bunch before the first big climb of the day, the Col de La Forclaz.

Riding at the front, the group of breakaway riders hoping for a stage win increased the gap with the peloton, building a maximum lead of 8 minutes, 40 seconds. Rui Costa attacked from that group in the 11.3-kilometer long and steep Col de la Croix Fry but could not reach the summit alone.

Marc Soler then made a move in the next climb, the Col des Aravis, with his attack left unanswered until Van Aert sprinted out of the group. Poels reacted quickly to catch him in the downhill.

Van Aert and Soler were dropped in the Cote des Amerands. Poels had excellent legs in the last climb and delivered an impressive final effort to raise his arms in triumph.

"I only started to believe in it in the final kilometers," he said. "I had to go full gas. It was amazing, amazing. Gino was helping me today."

## SEMIS

*From page 20*

"La Hunn's ankle is doing okay. I have a really good ankle brace that he is wearing. He'll play the singles final in the morning. Then finish doubles later. The doubles final, if they make it, has been pushed to Wednesday morning I think," he said.

Lam, meanwhile, is in good spirits when asked about his ankle injury prior to his postponed boys 14 doubles match.

"I have a little pain when I run but it's not too painful. I will do my best to have a good match, and never give up. I'll make NMI proud, I got this!" he said.

Lam faces top seed Junhyuk Seo of Guam in the boys singles finale.

As for the threat of being retired on Sunday with him just needing a game to wrap up the quarterfinals match, Lam said it was unbelievable.

"I was really shocked that the physio told me to retire. I couldn't do that. I just needed to win one more game!" he said.

In other matches that did finish yesterday, Irin Chung came in third in the girls 16 after beating Samoa's Toaiva Busby, 6-4, 1-0 (retired).

June Yu finished in 14th place in the boys 16 after defeating compatriot Simon Tang, 6-2, 6-1

Lina Tsukagoshi came in 12th in girls 14 after topping Guam's Leah San Agustin, 6-1, 6-3

Anne Lee lost to Samoa's Maryallyson Vaai, 5-7, 3-6, in the fifth-eighth playoff in the girls 14.

The CNMI placed fourth in the boys 12 after losing to Tahiti, 2-1.

Hoo Wang dropped to eighth place in the girls 16 after losing via walkover against Samoa's Tasa Paul.

Simon Tang and Cook Islands' Luke Pierre lost in the boys 16 doubles quarterfinals against Darius Carruthers and Titus Paul of Samoa, 3-6, 5-7.

Henry Seungwoo Choi finished fourth in the boys 14 after dropping a 0-6, 1-6 match against Kiribati's Alessandro Traverso.

Race is being accompanied in Fiji by assistant coach Colin Ramsey.

## JEON

*From page 20*

points of the tourney, Jeon said her best hole was No. 16 when she hit a birdie. Conversely, her worst hole was right after that on No. 17 when she double-bogeyed.

Aside from winning the HANMI Charity Golf tourney before, Jeon also recently won the ladies flight of the 2023 NMC Open Golf Tournament, her third. She also topped a previous edition of the Tournament of Champions as well as other minor golf tournaments.

Fourth to seventh place and receiving $300 cash were Ned Norita, Sixtus Aquino, Giovanni Mira, and Franco Santos.

Also pocketing $200 for finishing eighth to 12th place were Dominic Kieffer, Freddy Flores, Rick Sablan, J.J. Atalig, and Sherlyn Jones.

Consolation prizes for landing in predesignated spots on the pecking order were Byung Do Min (120th place), Ronnie Yeom (80th place), Gerald Guerrero (40th place), and Peter "Dung" Tenorio (20th place). All went home with $100 each.

MARK RABAGO

The Top 3 of the 21st Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament—Me Ae Jeon, Joseph Sablan, and Ben Duenas—poses for a group photo with organizers.

Optional play winners, who are now $200 richer, were Freddy Flores on hole No. 3 (31.5 inches), Franco Santos on No. 7 (86 inches), Flores again on No. 13 (16 inches), and Domingo Atalig on No. 17 (39 inches) in the closest to the pin competition. Kim Sae Hee had the most accurate drive on hole No. 9 at 6.5 inches.

A portion of the proceeds of the 21st Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament will benefit the Marianas Tourism Education Council and 500 Sails.

MTEC is a non-profit organization committed to educating the Marianas community, especially school children, about the Marianas tourism industry. 500 Sails is a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring the maritime traditions of the Mariana Islands.

## CK BEARS

*From page 20*

triple and was followed up by base hit after base hit from his teammates.

They didn't score in the third inning, but the Blue Jays didn't either and the Bears still had a wide lead. Four more came in the last inning for the Bears and it was game over as the Blue Jays could not retaliate and it ended in the fifth inning on a mercy-ruling.

In the Bandits-Natives game, three last minute runs in the last inning put the Bandits in the lead and stole the W from the Natives.

Harry Nakamura, Roy Norita, and Greg Sablan rounded home after their singles thanks to some field errors by the Natives which cost them the game.

The Natives could only put up one more run in the last inning and fell by a 2-run deficit to the Bandits, 4-6.

In other games, the Brewers blanked the Junior Nationals, 2-0 last Thursday.

Last Tuesday, the Cardinals-Braves game was rained out and will continue this week.

The playoffs began last night and is set to end on Thursday, July 20. Next week's championship schedule is yet to be announced.

Alcaraz beats Djokovic in 5 sets to win 2nd Grand Slam trophy.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Vingegaard keeps yellow jersey as Poels soloes to victory in 15th stag.

PAGE 19

# Semis doubles postponed to today

Lam

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The conclusion of the semifinals of the boys 14 division of the 2023 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships will have to wait for today as the matches of top seeds La Hunn Lam and Nason Wessel and Ryan Choi and Siwoo Lee were postponed yesterday in Lautoka, Fiji.

"La Hunn and Nason started late and were playing but it rained so it was postponed until tomorrow (today)," according to CNMI Hall of Famer and national coach Jeff Race.

At the time of the postponement Lam and Wessel were down 2-3 in the first set but leading the sixth game, 40-0, against Tahiti's Nicholas Montaigut and Matehau Sacault.

Choi and Lee, meanwhile, were to face Guam's Junhyuk Seo and Federated States of Micronesia's Dontrick Daniel, the second seeds.

In the quarterfinals of the boys 16 doubles, Henry Seungwoo Choi and June Yu dropped the first set against Fiji's Ao Li and Devaansh Singh, but were leading, 3-1, in the second set when the match was halted due to rain.

As for Lam's ankle injury that almost caused him to be retired in the quarterfinals of the boys 14 singles, Race said his ward is doing fine.

See SEMIS on Page 19

Wessel

# Jeon cleans up at HANMI Golf anew

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Me Ae Jeon is in familiar territory again after winning the 21st Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament last Saturday at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

The 62-year-old entrepreneur topped the popular blackjack double peoria tournament by shooting a net score of 70.20.

Jeon fired a gross score of 81 but won due to her 10.8 handicap.

Second place went to Joseph Sablan after he finished with a net score of 70.4 on the strength of his 80 gross score and 9.6 handicap.

Rounding out the Top 3 was Ben Duenas, who actually tied with Sablan with a net score of 70.40.

Both golfers also hacked out identical gross scores of 80 and handicaps of 9.6. Sablan, however, edged Duenas via scorecard playoff on hole No. 4 where Sablan made a par and Duenas came away with a bogey.

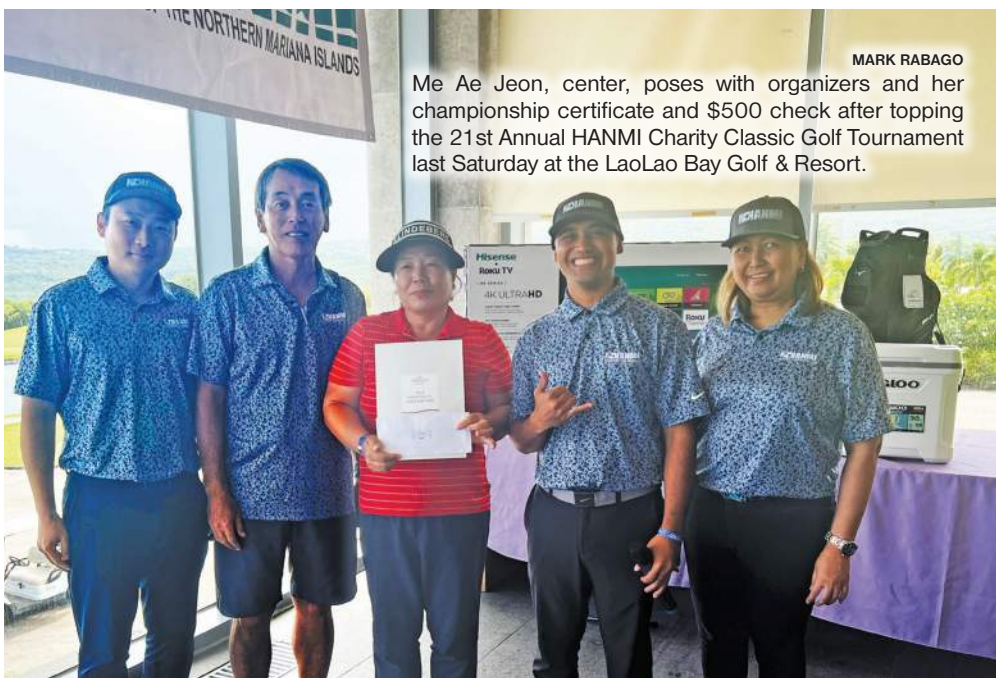
Jeon, Sablan, and Duenas all went home with $500 each.

Jeon, who has been playing golf the past 18 years, said she was surprised as ever to win the HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament again as she was not feeling well the night before.

She dedicated her win to her playing partner, Yannu Cai. In fact, she will treat Cai to a very expensive meal to celebrate her victory in the HANMI tourney.

Asked about the high and low

See JEON on Page 19



MARK RABAGO

Me Ae Jeon, center, poses with organizers and her championship certificate and $500 check after topping the 21st Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament last Saturday at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

# CK Bears, Bandits tear through foes in SBL

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The CK Bears tore through the Blue Jays, 14-1, in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League season last Saturday, while the Bandits defeated the Natives, 6-4, last Friday, at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

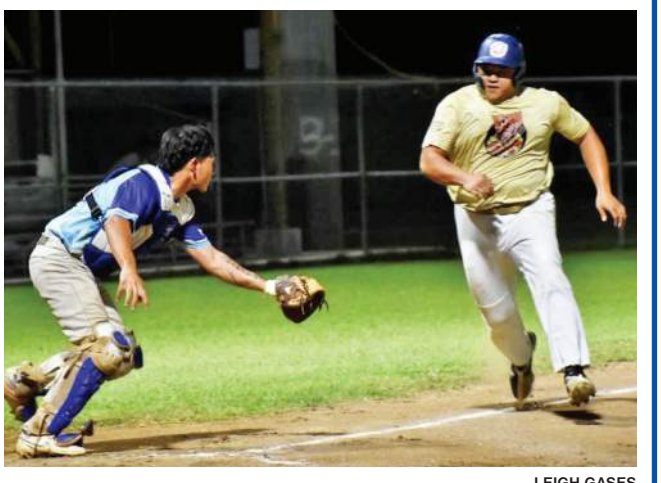
The Blue Jays struck first as they scored one in the first inning on Alvin Takai's RBI single, but that was all they wrote as their offense was shut down the whole game.

The Bears, however, were just getting started. Their offense was helped largely by the Blue Jays' faltering defense and scored four for an early lead.

The Bears were relentless and scored six more in the second inning for a huge 10-1 lead.

The top and middle of the Bears' lineup put in the work for the team as Virgil Secharmidal hit an RBI

See CK BEARS on Page 19



LEIGH GASES

CK Bears' Angel Palacios steams toward home plate and was called safe after Blue Jays catcher dropped the ball on the pass during their game last Saturday night in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.